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## NEWS RELEASE

# Department of Public Safety

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### **Work Zones: Drive with Caution**

**PIERRE, SD** –This week is Work Zone Awareness Week, and the South Dakota Highway Patrol is using it to remind drivers to be extra cautious in work zones or pay the price.

“Those who violate traffic laws in construction zones will face a hefty fine,” said Col. Dan Mosteller, South Dakota Highway Patrol. “Traffic fines automatically double in work zones.”

The most common work zone violations include speeding and driving too closely. Both cut reaction time. The faster a vehicle is going, the longer it takes that vehicle to stop. People who are tailgating eliminate their ability to react. If the vehicle in front of them stops suddenly, a rear-end collision is likely.

“Because of decreased driving areas and road crews working alongside highway traffic, there is more potential for injuries and crashes. Drivers need to avoid distractions and really focus on driving when they are in construction zones,” said Mosteller.

In 2008, three people died and more than 60 others were injured in work zone crashes. Last construction season, the Patrol wrote more than 1,000 work zone tickets.