

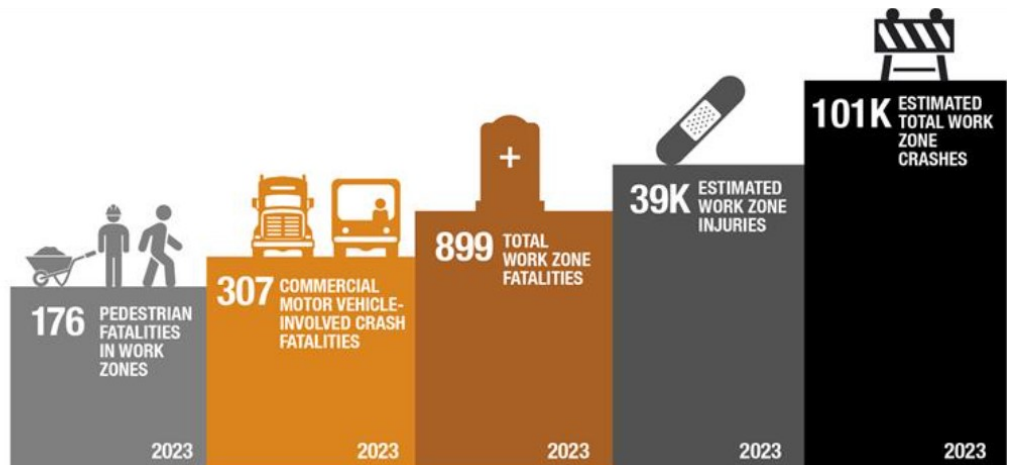
National Work Zone Awareness Week

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is scheduled for April 20-24, 2026 and is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones.

Always slow down and drive with caution. Drivers traveling too fast and not paying attention are the main causes of work zone crashes. Follow and share these safe driving tips:

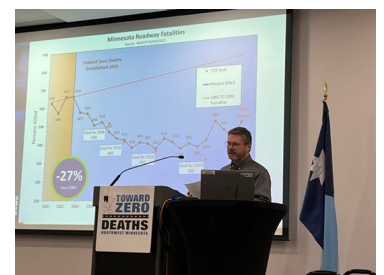
- Obey posted speed limits. The fine for speeding in a work zone is \$300.
- Drive undistracted. Avoid using phones, mobile devices, adjusting the radio – even eating – while in work zones.
- Move over. Give workers room to safely complete their work.
- Know before you go. Get real-time information about traffic and road conditions at 511mn.org or download the free 511mn app at Google Play or the App Store.
- Be patient. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Avoid making *unnecessary* lane changes.
- Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Expect work zones to constantly change. Day to day you could experience lane shifts, closures, narrower lanes, moving workers and vehicles.



REGISTER NOW for the TZD NW Regional Workshop on April 30, 2026!!

[2026 Northwest Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Workshop](#)



Enforcement Update:

- Distracted: April 1-30, 2026
- DWI (optional) Every Thur-Sat, May 1–Sept 7, 2026
- Speed: May 1-Sept 7, 2026
- Seat belts/child restraints: May 11-31, 2026
- DWI: August 19-Sept 7, 2026

In 2026, through April 5, there were 64 traffic-related deaths on MN roadways. This is 6% less than this time last year (68). Speed related fatalities (6) are 61% less than last year (18).

Share the Road with our Farming Community

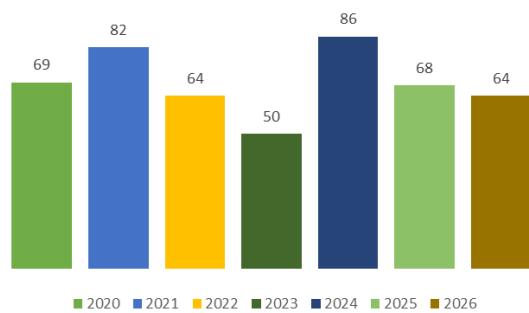
During Minnesota's planting and harvest seasons, motorists must share the road with slow-moving (under 30 mph) agricultural equipment. Key safety measures include slowing down immediately, increasing following distance, being patient, and passing only when safe, as equipment is wide and has large blind spots. Farm operators should use lights, flashers, and slow-moving emblems. An important part of equipment safety is responsibly using public roadways.

- It is Minnesota law for all vehicles traveling under 30 miles per hour on public roadways to use lights and flashers to ensure visibility and to have a "slow-moving" emblem on your tractor and equipment.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving large pieces of equipment, especially at night.

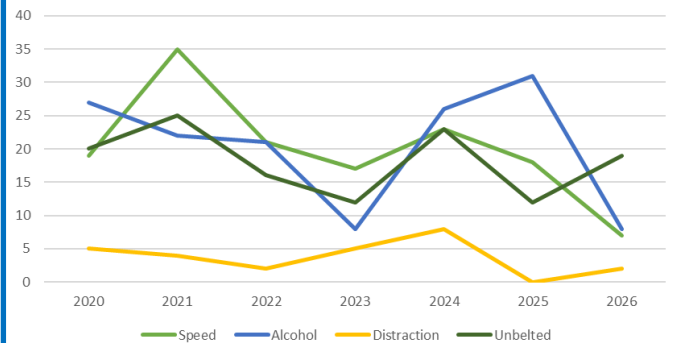


Proper safety precautions on the roads keep not only you safe, but the other people using the road as well.

MN Traffic Fatalities
Jan 01-Apr 05



MN Traffic Fatalities: Contributing Factors
Jan 01-Apr 05



Mark your 2026 Calendars

- April—National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- National Work Zone Awareness Week April 20-24, 2026
- Apr 29, 2026—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- April 30, 2026—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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