

# SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



Safety Management  
Services Company, 2010

An affiliate of  
Cottingham & Butler

## Be Safe Out There

*"Maintain a safe following distance to help keep from getting caught in a tight spot with no way out."*



Cottingham & Butler  
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

## Road Hazards and Construction Zones

### Attention Drivers!

Road hazards appear in many forms, from snow, rain, and ice, to sharp curves and steep hills. All of these hazards demand a driver's attention, including construction zones.

Construction zones are usually marked by orange cones and/or barrels and signs. There are reduced speed limits and often flashing arrows directing traffic into temporary concrete barriers to divide the lanes. Other problems include narrow lanes, uneven road surfaces, and poor lane markings. As a professional driver, you can lead by example. Following these steps will assist your safe travel in the construction zone:

- The easiest way to travel through a construction zone would be avoiding it all together. If you know about a construction zone ahead of time, try to plan an alternate route.
- When you come upon a construction zone, expect unusual behavior from other motorists. The motorists ahead may be confused, causing them to slow significantly or slam on their brakes. The motorists behind you may be making erratic lane changes, driving on the shoulder, or even speeding down an ending lane trying to get in front of you.
- Be patient. Pick a lane and stay in it.
- Construction areas may have oil, fuel, or other debris in the road from the machinery or construction crew.
- Maintain a safe following distance to help keep from getting caught in a tight spot with no way out.
- Make sure that you are checking your mirrors to be aware of the traffic around you. Always keep track of what's going on in front of your tractor.
- Construction areas in an oncoming lane or on the other side of a multi-lane highway may also present a hazard. Drivers in front of you may want to slow down and see what sort of work is being performed.
- Never forget about the construction crew in the area. Many workers are killed in construction zones each year.
- Remember, talking on a cell phone in a construction zone is illegal in some states!

Other motorists' patience and tempers will already be running short. As a professional driver, you must be aware of your surroundings, and yield the right-of-way to other motorists.

**Remember . . . report all accidents to the safety department immediately!**