



NEWS RELEASE

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District 7: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

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CALTRANS AND THE CHP PARTNER FOR INCREASED SAFETY ON THE JOB *Three Caltrans workers have lost their lives in the past three months while in the line of duty.*

In an effort to garner greater publicity for safety awareness on California's state freeways and highways, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), have joined forces to help save lives. Their safety slogans say it best: ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE*** and ***ARRIVE ALIVE: DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.***

These safety awareness message reminders come soon after a Sacramento Caltrans employee lost his life last week in the line of duty. Three Caltrans highway workers have lost their lives during the past three months while on the job. Each fatality was caused by a driver making last-minute, unsafe maneuvers. One hundred and seventy (170) Caltrans workers have been killed in the line of duty since 1924.

"Caltrans and the CHP share an important and common understanding of the dangers of the type of work we do," said Douglas R. Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. "When we bring the motoring public in as part of our team, we can achieve far greater results. It is every driver's responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves, their passengers and highway workers."

Failing also said that every driver should encourage and remind their friends, family members and co-workers to drive safely in work zones – and to never drink and drive. "Nearly everyone knows someone who either works for or who has a friend or relative who works for Caltrans or the CHP. On behalf of everyone who makes their living working on our highways, I am asking the motoring public to become part of the solution in making our highways safer for those who put their lives on the line every day -- and safer for themselves," he said. **Research shows that drivers know there is risk to highway workers in work zones, but they are not as aware of the risk to themselves and their passengers. Drivers are much more likely to drive cautiously in work zones when they are made aware of the risk to themselves and their passengers.**

Caltrans and the CHP are also asking members of the media to remind the motoring public through traffic reports to ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE*** and ***ARRIVE ALIVE, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.*** Failing added, "We invite members of the media to ride along with us to experience first-hand the challenges that are faced while working on California's freeways." ###

