

Motor Vehicle Crashes in Work Zones

Table 46							
Crashes in Work Zones: 2016-2020							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020	Avg. Change 2016-2019
Work Zone Crashes	324	453	630	590	753	27.6%	24.2%
Fatalities	0	9	10	7	5	-28.6%	281.1%
Suspected Serious Injury	19	16	34	18	26	44.4%	16.6%
Suspected Minor Injury	59	73	100	66	99	50.0%	8.9%
Possible Injuries	96	166	197	203	277	36.5%	31.5%
% All Crashes	1.3%	1.8%	2.6%	2.2%	3.3%	53.0%	23.3%
Workers Injured	0	1	1	1	0	-100.0%	33.3%

Workers on the roadway are especially vulnerable since their attention is focused on the task at hand rather than on the traffic passing by. While most crashes occurring in work zones do not involve a worker, there have been a few crashes that have involved workers.

A worker was struck while setting up a flashing arrow-board trailer in Ada County in 2017. A flagger was struck in 2018 in Canyon County. A worker was struck while standing next to traffic cones in a lane closure in 2019.

Single-vehicle crashes comprised 15% of the crashes in work zones in 2020. Overturn (22%) was the predominant most harmful event in single-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Other Object – Not Fixed (14%), Concrete Traffic Barrier (10%), Animal-Wild (8%), Embankment (8%), Other Fixed Object (5%), and Traffic Sign Support (5%).

The majority of work zone crashes involve multiple vehicles and Rear End (65%) was the predominant most harmful event for multiple-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Side-Swipe - Same Direction (15%), Angle Turning (6%), and Angle (3%).

Table 47 shows work zone crashes by road type.

Table 47									
Work Zone Crashes by Roadway Type: 2020									
	Fatal Crashes		Injury Crashes		Property Damage Crashes		All Crashes		
Interstate									
Urban	0	0.0%	109	42.1%	200	40.8%	309	41.0%	
Rural	3	75.0%	38	14.7%	97	19.8%	138	18.3%	
U.S. or State Highway									
Urban	0	0.0%	33	12.7%	52	10.6%	85	11.3%	
Rural	1	25.0%	25	9.7%	24	4.9%	50	6.6%	
Local									
Urban	0	0.0%	50	19.3%	108	22.0%	158	21.0%	
Rural	0	0.0%	4	1.5%	9	1.8%	13	1.7%	
Total	4	0.5%	259	34.4%	490	65.1%	753		

Table 48 shows the severity of crashes by transportation district. Transportation district boundaries can be found in Appendix A.

Table 48				
Crashes in Work Zones by Transportation District: 2020				
	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Crashes	Total Crashes
District 1	0	15	41	56
District 2	1	9	14	24
District 3	2	188	303	493
District 4	1	29	71	101
District 5	0	9	33	42
District 6	0	9	28	37
Statewide	4	259	490	753

In 2020, the economic cost of crashes in work zones was nearly \$97 million dollars. This represents 3% of the total cost of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).