

Motor Vehicle Crashes in Work Zones

Table 46							
Crashes in Work Zones: 2017-2021							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020-2021	Avg. Change 2017-2020
Work Zone Crashes	453	630	590	753	693	-8.0%	20.1%
Fatalities	9	10	7	5	5	0.0%	-15.8%
Suspected Serious Injury	16	34	18	26	28	7.7%	36.6%
Suspected Minor Injury	73	100	66	99	112	13.1%	17.7%
Possible Injuries	166	197	203	277	225	-18.8%	19.4%
% All Crashes	1.8%	2.6%	2.2%	3.3%	2.5%	-24.7%	28.7%
Workers Injured	1	1	1	0	1	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. A flagger was struck in 2021 in Twin Falls County.

Single-vehicle crashes comprised 19% of the crashes in work zones in 2021. Overturn (25%) was the predominant most harmful event in single-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Concrete Traffic Barrier (19%), Other Object – Not Fixed (16%), Ditch (5%), and Embankment (5%).

The majority of work zone crashes involve multiple vehicles and Rear End (63%) was the predominant most harmful event for multiple-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Side-Swipe - Same Direction (14%), Angle Turning (4%), Angle (2%), Head-On Turning (2%), and Side-Swipe – Opposite Direction (2%).

Table 47 shows work zone crashes by road type.

Table 47 Work Zone Crashes by Roadway Type: 2021									
	Fatal Crashes		Injury Crashes		Property Damage Crashes		All Crashes		
Interstate									
Urban	1	20.0%	105	44.1%	191	42.4%	297	42.9%	
Rural	3	60.0%	37	15.5%	64	14.2%	104	15.0%	
U.S. or State Highway									
Urban	0	0.0%	18	7.6%	52	11.6%	70	10.1%	
Rural	1	20.0%	28	11.8%	26	5.8%	55	7.9%	
Local									
Urban	0	0.0%	39	16.4%	100	22.2%	139	20.1%	
Rural	0	0.0%	11	4.6%	17	3.8%	28	4.0%	
Total	5	0.7%	238	34.3%	450	64.9%	693		

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: 2021				
	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Crashes	Total Crashes
District 1	0	23	52	75
District 2	0	4	4	8
District 3	2	176	342	520
District 4	1	18	30	49
District 5	1	7	5	13
District 6	1	10	17	28
Statewide	5	238	450	693

In 2021, the economic cost of crashes in work zones was nearly \$116 million dollars. This represents 2% of the total cost of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).