

Motor Vehicle Crashes in Work Zones

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022-2023	Avg. Change 2019-2022
Work Zone Crashes	590	753	693	649	757	16.6%	4.4%
Fatalities	7	5	5	5	8	60.0%	-9.5%
Suspected Serious Injury	18	26	28	23	44	91.3%	11.4%
Suspected Minor Injury	66	99	112	87	123	41.4%	13.6%
Possible Injuries	203	277	225	212	157	-25.9%	4.0%
% All Crashes	2.2%	3.3%	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%	16.6%	7.2%
Workers Injured	1	0	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 standing next to traffic cones in a lane closure in 2019. A flagger was struck in 2021 in Twin Falls County. A worker was struck in Blaine County in 2023.

Single-vehicle crashes comprised 23% of the crashes in work zones in 2023. Concrete traffic barrier (17%) was the predominant most harmful event in single-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Overturn (16%), Other Object – Not Fixed (14%), Wild Animal (7%), and Embankment (6%).

The majority of work zone crashes involve multiple vehicles and Rear End (48%) was the predominant most harmful event for multiple-vehicle crashes in work zones followed by Side-Swipe - Same Direction (23%), Angle Turning (7%), Angle (4%), Same Direction Turning (3%), Head-On Turning (2%), Side-Swipe – Opposite Direction (2%), and Parked Car (2%).

Table 47 shows work zone crashes by road type.

Table 47 Work Zone Crashes by Roadway Type: 2023									
	Fatal Crashes		Injury Crashes		Property Damage Crashes		All Crashes		
Interstate									
Urban	1	14.3%	65	29.4%	166	31.4%	232	30.6%	
Rural	4	57.1%	47	21.3%	109	20.6%	160	21.1%	
U.S. or State Highway									
Urban	0	0.0%	29	13.1%	66	12.5%	95	12.5%	
Rural	1	14.3%	30	13.6%	75	14.2%	106	14.0%	
Local									
Urban	1	14.3%	44	19.9%	99	18.7%	144	19.0%	
Rural	0	0.0%	6	2.7%	14	2.6%	20	2.6%	
Total	7	0.9%	221	29.2%	529	69.9%	757		

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: 2023				
	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Crashes	Total Crashes
District 1	1	32	101	134
District 2	1	7	20	28
District 3	1	109	215	325
District 4	3	36	88	127
District 5	1	25	89	115
District 6	0	12	16	28
Statewide	7	221	529	757

In 2023, the economic cost of crashes in work zones was nearly \$175 million dollars. This represents 3% of the total cost of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).