

FDOT Commemorates Work Zone Awareness Week, Reminds Motorists Safety is Everyone's Job

This week, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is commemorating Work Zone Awareness Week to remind motorists to practice extra caution when traveling through work zones. Governor DeSantis signed an official proclamation recognizing Work Zone Awareness Week with the goal of protecting vulnerable workers as they build and maintain Florida's transportation infrastructure.

"Work zone safety is everyone's job," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. "Florida invests billions of dollars each year in construction projects to improve our transportation system, creating numerous ongoing work zones. As workers do their part to improve, rebuild, and maintain our roadways, motorists should use extra caution, adhere to all posted work zone speed limits, and remove all distractions for safety."

According to 2016-2019 statewide crash data, Florida experienced more than 47,000 work zone-related crashes, including more than 300 fatalities and more than 1,800 severe injuries. To reduce crashes in work zones, FDOT's current practices include supporting traffic laws within the work zone with signage, public awareness and education regarding work zone safety, and partnering with law enforcement to strategically address driver behavior, locations, and conditions most common or hazardous in speeding-related crashes.

"The workplace for thousands of men and women across Florida is alongside our roadways. Each time you

travel through a work zone, remember, you are entering their workspace, and their safety is in your hands," said Colonel Gene S. Spaulding, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "The Florida Highway Patrol recognizes the importance of work zone safety and asks each motorist to slow down, stay alert, and eliminate distractions when approaching a work zone to create a safer driving environment for all." FDOT has comprehensive standard guidelines and procedures for temporary traffic control at work zones. Temporary traffic control plans include intelligent transportation systems and connected and automated vehicle (CAV) applications to create smart work zone projects. FDOT has been including CAV and emerging technologies in more construction and road work projects to improve safety.

National Work Zone Awareness Week began in 1999 when the Federal Highway Administration, the American Traffic Safety Services Association, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials signed a Memorandum of Agreement pledging to increase public awareness of work zone safety issues through a national media campaign. Since then, awareness has continued to grow, with state agencies and other organizations sponsoring high-visibility education and outreach initiatives. media efforts throughout Florida.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with FDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

6 Steps to a Safer Jobsite

Gilbane Building Company's 6 protocols for a safer site amid COVID-19 & beyond

The No. 1 priority of Gilbane Building Company has always been the safety of its workers, and at no time has that been more critical than during the past year.

COVID-19 has impacted how and when work gets done — ushering in a new level of safety protocols. While most of these were in response to the immediate threat of COVID-19, these new practices may also be helpful in managing contagion of the yearly flu and many of them will continue for the foreseeable future.

Gilbane turned to the latest Internet of Things (IoT) wearables to support its efforts in keeping workers safe. It also found creative ways to implement standard best practices to overcome jobsite limitations.

The following are six safety protocols Gilbane has found effective in keeping its workers safe during the pandemic.

1. Reduce the number of people working together

Some of the practices the company implemented before the pandemic, such as using modular construction and just-in-time delivery to expedite projects and limit the number of people working together at a time. During the pandemic, Gilbane has been conducting more detailed planning than usual to determine who needs to be on site, as well as when and where, so it can assign workers to specific shifts and zones to minimize interactions. By leveraging automated check-in functionality with turnstiles or wearable technology, Gilbane has been able to avoid clusters around entry and

egress points. Specific location-based IoT sensors can also be used to monitor where workers congregate to better maintain capacity limits in specific zones.

2. Using sensors to alert workers when they get too close

Even when contact is reduced as much as possible, tradespeople still need to work in close proximity, and social distancing is a proven way to minimize the spread of COVID-19. To enhance social distancing efforts, Gilbane has deployed Proximity Trace from Triax Technologies to provide real-time feedback through audio and visual alerts when workers get too close to each other.

3. Be inventive in following protocols

Handwashing, temperature checks and mask wearing are key methods of controlling the spread of COVID-19. Increasing access to handwashing stations and the availability of hand sanitizers at project sites has been important, especially where running water may not be readily available throughout the jobsite. The plumbers on one jobsite rigged up a portable tankless warm water unit by attaching spigots to landscaping bins and adding wheels.

4. Change the attitude about calling in sick

In the construction environment, some workers may feel that calling in sick is a stigma, regardless of how ill they feel.

[Click Here to Read More ▶](#)

Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website



Within the past 3 months,
CEI assisted DBEs
in obtaining

**\$6 MILLION
IN BONDING!!**

Contact CEI for Bonding,
Financing or Insurance needs!

 (800) 423-7058

 www.fdotdbesupportservices.com
or www.cmdp-bgp.com

 5016 Calle Minorga
Sarasota, FL 34242



CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.