

The OTS Focuses Efforts on Distracted Driving Campaign

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will be hosting an event this month to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving. The event will take place April 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sacramento's Inderkum High School.

During the event, the OTS will introduce a new distracted driving PSA, as well as a statewide high school contest encouraging students to come up with their own PSA they think would resonate with their friends and classmates.



"Teenagers are new drivers with the least amount of experience, which is why it is important to instill safe driving habits at an early age," OTS Director Rhonda Craft said. "We hope this event inspires teens to make smart decisions while driving."

According to the California Highway Patrol, six out of every 10 crashes among teens involved driver distraction. In a 2018 public opinion survey by the OTS, nearly half of all drivers surveyed listed distracted driving because of texting or talking on the phone as their biggest safety concern on roads.

"Distracted driving remains a key safety issue for both teens and adults," Director Craft said. "Getting the public to understand the risks goes a long way toward changing behaviors."

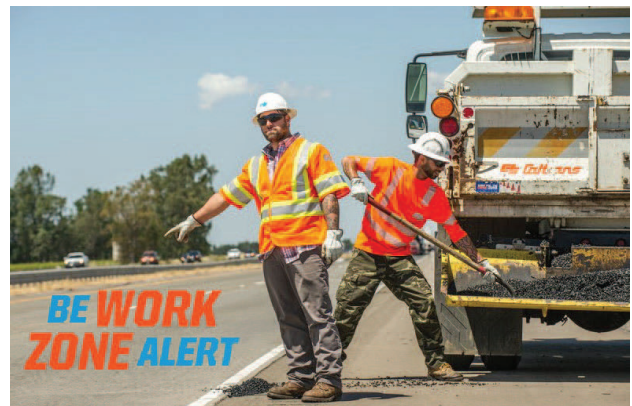
April 8-12 Is National Work Zone Awareness Week

State departments of transportation and traffic safety offices across the country will participate in an education campaign to raise awareness about the dangers highway workers face on the job every day.

National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 8-12, and the OTS will be working with our law enforcement partners and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to remind drivers to exercise caution around work zones.

Caltrans' "Be Work Zone Alert" campaign is partially funded by the OTS, and humanizes highway workers as people who have children, and families they go home to every day. Since 1921, 189 Caltrans workers have been killed on the job.

In 2017, 46 people were killed and more than 3,000 injured from crashes that happened in construction zones. Coupled with the passage of Senate Bill 1 in April 2017, which provided \$54 billion for transportation projects over the next 10 years, and there will be more work zones across California.



LOOKING AHEAD



April 8-15: U Drive. U Text. U Pay. National Distracted Driving Enforcement Mobilization
April 12: OTS Distracted Driving Awareness Event