

LOCAL

## Safe Actions Save Lives, work zone awareness ODOT initiative underway

by: [Austin Breasette/KFOR](#) | Apr 8, 2026



OKLAHOMA CITY ([KFOR](#)) – Safe actions save lives is the calling card for the state department of transportation’s work zone awareness month initiative. Warmer weather brings more travel and more construction, so they’re urging drivers to keep their eyes up and avoid distractions.

Among the reliable signs that spring has sprung are construction zones sprouting up everywhere. April’s work zone awareness month is a good reminder to refocus on the road.

“We really want to make sure people are not being distracted while they’re driving, buckling up, slowing down, and making sure they’re aware of what’s

going on,” Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s Public Information Manager Emily Long said.

They’re expecting about 130 areas of construction statewide, and that’s not including maintenance.

“That could be potholes, repairs, guardrail, repairs, striping, things like that,” Long said.

According to Long, 74 ODOT and OTA workers have lost their lives while improving our roads. Hundreds of crashes also happen in work sites each year, mostly due to distracted driving and speeding.

“The amount of motorists that are actually killed within work zones is just astronomical,” Long said.

A [recent study](#) from a national transportation research nonprofit shows Oklahoma’s fatality rate on the road overall is 19% higher than the national average. That makes a \$17 billion impact on the state each year.

“These are people who deserve to get home safely back to their families in their lives,” she said.

Gov. Kevin Stitt issued a declaration declaring Apr. 20-24 Work Zone Awareness Week. Long said the department’s initiative mirrors a nationwide push on the same topic. Below, you can find some of the upcoming public address announcements in the coming weeks.

**April 22:** Go Orange for Work Zone Safety Day – Oklahomans are encouraged to wear orange to show support for highway workers and promote work zone safety. Participants can share photos on social media tagging [@OKDOT](#) and [@OKTurnpike](#) or email their photos to [SCinbox@odot.org](mailto:SCinbox@odot.org) for a chance to be featured on statewide social media channels.

**April 22:** Glow Orange – Landmarks across Oklahoma will glow orange in support of work zone safety, including the Devon Tower and Skydance Bridge in Oklahoma City, the ONEOK Boathouse and Williams Crossing Pedestrian Bridge in Tulsa, First Oklahoma Bank in Jenks, and the City of Moore 34th St. Bridge.

**April 30:** A moment of silence will be observed to honor fallen ODOT and OTA workers who lost their lives in the line of duty.