



NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 15, 2008
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CALTRANS OBSERVES HIGHWAY WORKER MEMORIAL DAY

LOS ANGELES- Today, at Dodger Stadium, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) officials and families remembered, honored and paid tribute to 170 California highway workers killed while on the job. This is one of many memorial events to be held across the state. Caltrans and its predecessors have lost one hundred and seventy highway workers who were just doing their job. According to Doug Failing, Caltrans District Seven Director, "Today is a day to also bring to light the continued need for Caltrans and the motoring public to make safety a number one priority. Just as each one of us wants our loved ones to come home at the end of their work day, so do the families of highway workers. Safety on our highways must always be our number one priority."

According to Federal Highway Administration statistics, in the last ten years there has been a forty-five percent increase in highway work zone crashes. Dan Freeman, Caltrans District Seven Deputy Director of Maintenance stated, "Based on Federal Highway Administration statistics, nationally there are three fatalities every day in highway work zones and one person is injured every nine minutes in the same work zones."

Caltrans has an on-going public awareness campaign "Slow for the Cone Zone" throughout California to remind motorists to reduce speed in highway work zones. Since the inception of the campaign in 1999, Caltrans has seen a decrease of 20-40 percent in highway work zone collisions.

Caltrans spends over almost \$2 million annually to replace damaged cones in work zones. These cones are not only to remind motorists to reduce speed but to alert them of highway workers nearby.

Caltrans reminds motorists to "**Slow for the Cone Zone**"

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