



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, September 04, 2008  
**District:** 7 – Los Angeles/Ventura Counties  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## WESTBOUND SANTA PAULA FREEWAY (SR-126) CLOSURE

**SANTA PAULA-** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has fully closed both lanes of westbound State Route 126 between Briggs Road and Wells Road for an investigation following a tragic accident that occurred today at 10:39 a.m. This segment is expected to re-open today at approximately 6 p.m.

Currently, traffic is being diverted off at Briggs Road. Motorists will then turn left on Telegraph Road and left again on Wells Road to re-enter State Route 126. At this time, motorists can expect delays up to 90 minutes.

The tragic accident occurred during routine litter removal in the center median of this two-lane road. An errant big rig vehicle apparently lost control and struck three court referred workers resulting in one fatality and serious injuries to two other workers.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the court referred workers who have been killed and injured. Court referred workers are a valuable resource that helps us to keep our roadways clean,” said Doug Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director, whose responsibilities include Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

Throughout the year, Caltrans promotes safety awareness on California’s state freeways and highways by asking the motoring public to be aware of highway workers and to Slow For The Cone Zone. It is every driver’s responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves, their passengers and highway workers.

Caltrans asks members of the media to remind the motoring public to ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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