



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** December 14, 2007  
**District:** 10 – Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties.  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALTRANS ASK THE PUBLIC TO INCREASE AWARENESS IN WORK ZONES**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is asking motorists to increase their awareness when driving through highway work zones. On Friday, December 14, 2007, Caltrans suffered the third tragic loss of a highway maintenance worker in less than two and a half months.

Kome Ajise, Caltrans District 10 Director, recently stated, “The recent loss of three valued Caltrans workers was tragic, and is a costly reminder that all motorist must be particularly attentive as they travel through our work zones.”

Caltrans number one commitment is to the safety of motorists and our employees. Immediately after the death of our fellow employee, Caltrans required all of its highway workers to immediately return from the field to review safety procedures and practices. Ajise also stated, “We need everyone’s help in keeping our employees safe as they work to keep the roads open for all of us.”

Motorists need to “Slow for The Cone Zone” and be aware of the highway workers who are contributing to the delivery of a record \$10 billion in statewide highway improvements. Caltrans has lost a total of 170 workers since 1924.

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