



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2009  
**District:** District 6 - Fresno  
**Contact:** Tami Conrado (559) 488-4082  
**Email:** tami\_conrado@dot.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WORKER'S MEMORIAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO 171 EMPLOYEES

*Caltrans' 19<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony honors employees who have died in the line of duty*

Fresno – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will hold a Workers Memorial Ceremony, tomorrow, Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to remember Highway Maintenance and other employees who have lost their lives while on the job. Since 1924, a total of 171 Caltrans workers have died in the line of duty, 1 of which was killed this past year. Reckless or inattentive drivers traveling through work zone areas have caused the majority of these deaths.

This week's ceremony will be held in front of the Caltrans District Office located at 1352 W. Olive Avenue, Fresno. This ceremony will feature a temporary memorial of 171 orange safety cones to signify each fallen Caltrans worker. The Caltrans Honor Guard will perform a special tribute, including the placement of the additional cone to represent the Caltrans Maintenance Worker who made the ultimate sacrifice this past year while maintaining California's transportation system.

Speakers will include various Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans District 6 Director; Captain Roy Huerta, California Highway Patrol; and John Liu, Caltrans District 6 Maintenance and Operation Deputy District Director. The ceremony will also include a musical performance by Teresa Rix, Caltrans District 6 Acting Deputy District Director of Administration and testimony from current Caltrans Maintenance Workers.

Caltrans credits its "Slow for the Cone Zone" Public Awareness Campaign for helping to lower California's work zone fatalities. This campaign is designed to make drivers cognizant of workers in construction and maintenance zones and encourages motorists to ease off the gas pedal as they drive through these areas.

- more -

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Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Page 2

## Caltrans Worker Fatalities:

	Errant Drivers	Other Accidents	Total Fatalities
1972-81	22	16	38
1982*-91	8	8	16
1992	2	0	2
1993	2	1	3
1994	1	1	2
1995	3	0	3
1996	0	0	0
1997	0	4	4
1998	1	1	2
1999	0	2	2
2000**	0	1	1
2001	0	1	1
2004	1	2	3
2005	0	1	1
2006	2	0	2
2007	3	0	3
2008	1	0	1
Total:	44	38	82
1924-71			87
<b>Total:</b>			<b>171</b>

\* GIVE 'EM A BRAKE CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED

\*\* SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED

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