



A series of bulletins intended to keep members informed and safe

**Number 12
July 7, 2011**

Subject: Slow Down in the “Cone Zone”

There's little protection for workers in the “cone zone” at the side of the road. Workers are at risk of being seriously injured or being killed by a passing vehicle. Thousands of roadside workers in the cone zone have had to dodge drivers that fail to slow down sufficiently and pay attention when travelling through their work zone.

A large segment of drivers say that they adjust driving behaviors when travelling through or past a cone zone, yet there have already been several incidents this season where traffic control workers have been seriously injured.

It's not just traffic control workers or road construction crews that are at risk. Other workers, including Telus, Shaw and other telecomm workers, utility workers, municipal workers, landscapers, tow-truck drivers, road-maintenance workers, and emergency and enforcement personnel, all put themselves at risk working in close proximity to traffic.

In the last ten years, WorkSafeBC reports that 386 workers – typically working in cone zones – were struck by motor vehicles. Forty-six were classified as serious injuries and 12 resulted in the death of the worker.

To make drivers more aware of the dangers, the Work Zone Safety Alliance recently launched the “Cone Zone” campaign, a road safety initiative that encourages drivers to slow down, pay attention and be respectful when driving near roadside workers.

The objective of the campaign is to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of workers at the side of the road by increasing awareness of their vulnerability in the cone zone.

To avoid the frustration that often comes with the hold-ups in work zones, drivers should plan ahead to avoid known cone zones and allow extra travel time, drive at the posted speed limits, and leave plenty of space between their vehicle and the one in front of them.

Speed is a factor in many motor vehicle accidents. Drivers that don't reduce their speed when there are workers at the roadside are putting those workers at serious risk.

Workers expect and deserve to go home to their families at the end of their work day.

Enjoy a safe summer

TWU National Health & Safety Committee

