

National Work Zone Awareness Week Plans Begin for 2015

Many firms, agencies, organizations and associations have begun planning for the 2015 version of National Work Zone Awareness Week. This year NWZAW will be from March 23 to March 27, with a kick-off event to be held in Virginia. The purpose of National Work Zone Awareness Week is to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety as well as to mobility issues in work zones.

In Alabama, the activities of the event include posting newsletter articles, giving poster presentations, conducting safety stand downs, and placing billboards alongside the highways. In Alabama, the activities of the many participants are coordinated by the Alabama Struck By Alliance. The Alliance is an organization of business persons and governmental officials who share information and conduct activities to promote the safe travel and operations in and around the work zones along the highways in the state. The plans and results are recorded on the website of the Mobile Section of the Alabama Association of General Contractors. The Alabama AGC webpage about the Alliance and its history is at: <http://www.theconstructioncenter.org/alliance/alliance.asp>

Members of the Alliance also submit a proclamation for the Governor to sign declaring the week to also be Alabama Work Zone Awareness Week. The Alliance met in December 2014 at the Alabama Emergency Management Center in Clanton recently to begin making plans for 2015.

Governor Robert Bentley signed his proclamation last year on March 12, 2014. In the picture below, Governor Bentley is flanked by several member of the Alabama Struck By Alliance. Standing, left to right are James Giddens, 3M Corporation, Warner Patterson, Alabama Power Company, Waymon Benefield, Alabama Department of Transportation, Arthur Agee, Alabama Power Company, Mark Bartlett, Alabama Division Federal Highway Administration, USD DOT, John McCarthy, City of Montgomery, Bill Caton, Alabama Association of General Contractors, Randy Stroup, Alabama Dept of Transportation, Jeff Rodgers, Alabama Association of General Contractors and Steve Jarrett, Alabama Department of Public Safety.



The theme of the national event is planned each year in January at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, DC. A poster demonstrating the theme will be designed and produced by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) and distributed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The poster and other public relations material will be available at the ATSSA website:

<http://www.atssa.com/Events/NationalWorkZoneAwarenessWeek.aspx>

In 2014, the kickoff event for NWZAW was hosted by Washington State. The location was in Seattle, near the massive State Route-99 tunnel project in downtown. The 2014 theme was "Work Zone Speeding: A Costly Mistake". Information about themes of other years and activities around the country are contained on the FHWA website at:

http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm

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