

Spring's arrival boosts risks for workers along roads
Work Zone Safety Go Orange news conference – April 10

Spring means road repair crews, utility workers and others are out along Minnesota's roadways making sure our state has safe thoroughfares, as well as dependable electricity, natural gas, water and other services. But each day, their hard work puts them at risk of death or injury from drivers who are distracted or traveling at unsafe speeds. A joint effort of Minnesota employers, government entities and traffic safety-focused associations will take part in national Work Zone Safety Go Orange on April 10, along with other state and national events intended to urge drivers to keep highway workers, construction crews, utility teams and other personnel safe.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019

WHERE: Washington County Public Works
11660 Myeron Road North
Stillwater, MN 55802

Event will be held rain or shine.

WHAT: Event will take place in recreated work zone. Reporters will have the opportunity to participate in a typical safety briefing provided by Tim Parkos, senior engineering technician, Washington County Public Works.

Participants in a brief program include:

- Lisa Kons, traffic safety program manager, Minnesota Safety Council
- Bert Flynn, safety director, Xcel Energy
- Scott Knight, line crew foreman
- Lori Buffington, communications, Great River Energy
- Paul Aasen, president, Minnesota Safety Council

Interviews will be available immediately following the event.

WHY: In Minnesota, 644 work zone crashes resulted in nine fatalities and 933 injuries in 2017. Preliminary data for 2018 found nine fatalities and 788 injuries in 534 crashes. For 2017, the Federal Highway Administration reported 710 work zone fatal crashes nationally, with 799 fatalities, the majority of which were motorists, while roadway workers accounted for 132 deaths.

###

The Minnesota Safety Council is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preventing injuries on the road, at work, at home, and in the community. For more information, see www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org.