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# Work zone safety in spotlight as construction season begins

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but typically gets under way in May. WYDOT will have construction along interstates 80, 25 and 90, and secondary highways.

“Our main goal out there is to keep the traveling public and everyone safe,” said Kevin Erickson, resident engineer in Cheyenne. “We’re out there working alongside of the traveling public. We want to establish traffic control, so they can maneuver through the site safely.”

Work zones are designed to separate traffic from construction activities so workers and drivers are safe. Although the lanes are narrower, they are wide enough to safely accommodate traffic.

WYDOT also posts safety signs before construction sites to alert motorists of upcoming work. In work zones, motorists may see traffic cones, concrete barriers, flaggers, reduced speed signs and other safety-related measures.

“Every work zone is different so you really need to pay attention

to what’s on the signs,” Erickson said. “The configurations vary from site to site. The important thing is to just slow down when you’re in construction zones. There are a lot of people out there working. We want everyone to go home safe.”

### When traveling in or near work zones, motorists should:

- Plan ahead and give themselves extra time to reach their destinations.
- Slow down and follow speed limit signs.
- Pay attention to other drivers.
- Don’t drive distracted.
- Wear their seat belts.
- Visit WYDOT’s 511 website at [wyoroad.info](http://wyoroad.info) for the latest road and travel information.

For additional information, contact Aimee Inama, senior Public Affairs specialist, at [aimea2@wyo.gov](mailto:aimea2@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-4013, or J O’Brien, senior Public Affairs specialist, at [j.obrien@wyo.gov](mailto:j.obrien@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-4439.

## Work zone crashes

While the number of crashes in work zones are down over the past five years in Wyoming, these crashes still make up more than 200 crashes per year, for a total of 1,271. More than 30 percent of those crashes led to injuries and fatalities.

# 1,271 crashes

**278 injury crashes**

**381 injuries**

**17 fatal crashes**

**22 fatalities**

**976 property damage only**

Source: WYDOT Highway Safety Program



A flagger stops traffic while heavy equipment moves through a construction zone on Interstate 25 north of Wheatland in October of 2013.

A close call in a bridge construction zone on Interstate 80 near Cheyenne last year could have been much worse. When a tractor trailer driver didn’t slow down his vehicle from 75 mph to the reduced construction zone speed, he temporarily lost control of his vehicle, which partially drove up on a concrete barrier.

Luckily, no workers were working close to the incident when it happened.

“There was cement dust flying everywhere,” said Ethan Crockett, WYDOT engineer in Cheyenne. “The contractors were running to get away. The driver apparently didn’t slow down. There were tire marks on the concrete barrier 18 inches to 2-feet

high.”

April 9-13 was National Work Zone Awareness Week a time the Wyoming Department of Transportation reminds motorists to always follow posted speed limits, pay attention and not drive distracted when entering construction zones.

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Construction season in Wyoming can start as early as April

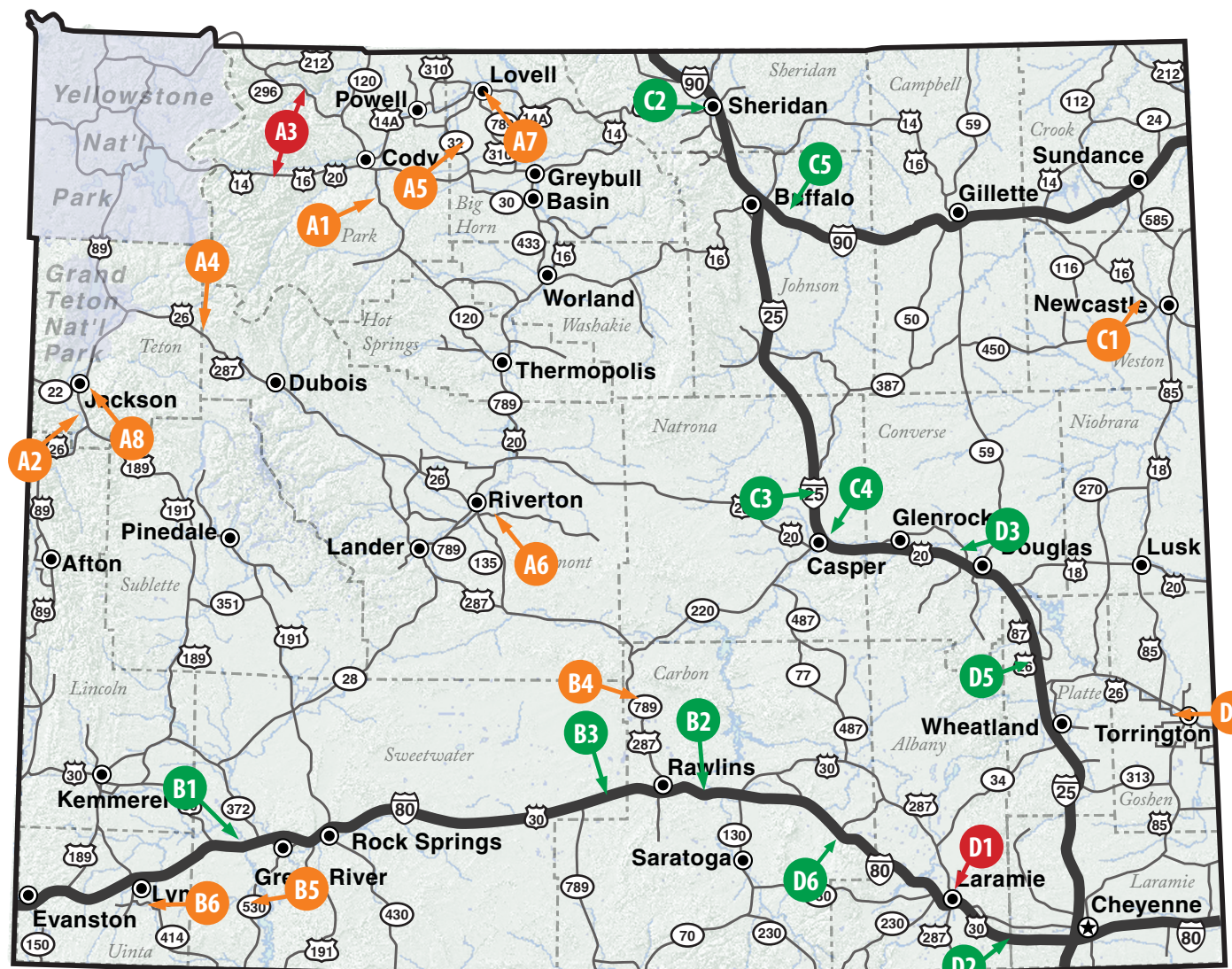
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## Northwest Wyoming - A

- A1** WYO 120 between Meeteetse and Cody in Park County: Mill and overlay on 11 miles of road starting at mile marker 74. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. June completion.
- A2** US 26-89-189-191, south of Jackson: Widening to five lanes, two bridge replacements, wildlife mitigation, turnouts and addition of pedestrian and bike pathways, mile markers 145-149. June 2019 completion.
- A3** US-14-16 and WYO 296, west of Cody and west of Powell: Rockfall mitigation work. May completion.
- A4** US 26, between Moran Junction and Dubois: Drain installation and slope stabilization as part of slide mitigation. June completion.
- A5** WYO 32 between Lovell and Emblem: Road resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation, including right-of-way fence installation. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. October completion.
- A6** WYO 789 in Riverton: Reconstruction of two miles of road including utility, traffic signal, sidewalk and storm sewer work. October 2019 completion.
- A7** US 310, near Lovell: Road widening and realignment to accommodate additional lanes as well as bridge repairs on 4 miles of road. June 2019 completion.
- A8** US 26 and WYO 22 in Jackson: Intersection realignment and addition of two left turning lanes. June completion.

## Southwest Wyoming - B

- B1** I-80 between Granger Junction and Green River: Surfacing work on 6 miles of eastbound road. October completion.
- B2** I-80 near Rawlins: Resurfacing of 6 miles of interstate including bridge deck work. October 2019 completion.
- B3** I-80 near Rawlins: Pavement resurfacing and minor bridge repairs on 13 miles of eastbound road. October completion.
- B4** US 287 between Rawlins and Muddy Gap: Resurfacing of 11 miles of road. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. October completion.
- B5** WYO 530 between Green River and Utah: Road leveling and surfacing on 6 miles of road. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. June completion.
- B6** WYO 411 west of Mountain View: Road surfacing and bridge rehabilitation on 4 miles of road and three bridges, including right-of-way fence installation. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. October completion.



### Legend

- I** Interstate highway work zones: Generally, there are no delays or detours. Travel may be narrowed to one lane (on pavement) each way and involve a reduced speed limit.
  - P** Two-lane road paving projects: Motorists may be required to stop and wait to follow pilot cars. Usually, any delays are limited to 10 minutes or less and travel is on pavement.
  - R** Two-lane reconstruction projects: At times, motorists may have to drive on gravel or another temporary surface, typically for two miles or less. Delays are limited, and there are no detours unless specifically noted.
  - ⊘** Not every project is listed  
Due to the unpredictable nature of the construction process, not all projects are active all the time. In addition, some short-term projects and smaller projects which disrupt traffic to a lesser degree are not listed. Completion dates are approximate.
- Commercial vehicle operators:**  
In work zones, size and weight restrictions may apply. Ask for details at any Wyoming port of entry or call (307) 777-4376. Current restrictions are also available on the Internet at [www.wyoroad.info/highway/restrictions.html](http://www.wyoroad.info/highway/restrictions.html).

Check the construction report online at:  
[www.wyoroad.info](http://www.wyoroad.info): Construction - Statewide

## Northeast Wyoming - C

- C1** US 16 between Osage and Newcastle: Four-way stop and port-of-entry. Two-way, head-to-head traffic. Occasional 10-minute delays. Project is funded through 10-cent fuel-tax revenue. June 2019 completion.
- C2** I-90 near and in Sheridan: Resurfacing and reconstruction of bridge work of eastbound lane. Two-way, head-to-head traffic from North Sheridan Interchange to 5th Street interchange. October 2019 completion.
- C3** I-25 near Bar Nunn: Construction of a new interchange including minor modifications to Westwinds Road and Old Salt Creek Highway. July 2019 completion.
- C4** I-25 in Casper: Bridge reconstruction between Wyoming Highway 258 and Poplar Street interchange, various locations. October completion.
- C5** I-90 between Buffalo and Gillette: Pavement resurfacing and minor repairs to 14 bridges on 11 miles of the eastbound and westbound lanes. June 2019 completion.

## Southeast Wyoming - D

- D1** Harney Street Bridge in Laramie: Construction of a new bridge over the railroad and roadway. July 2019 completion.
- D2** I-80 between Laramie and Cheyenne: Pavement surfacing and bridge rehabilitation on 7 miles starting at mile marker 341. October completion.
- D3** I-25 near Douglas: Bridge replacement, shoulder widening and overlay on 5 miles of road. (mileposts 145.5-150) Bridge will be raised for additional clearance. June 2019 completion.
- D4** WYO 156 west of Torrington: Crews will fix shoulders, add a pavement overlay and make minor bridge repairs on 7 miles. June 2019 completion.
- D5** I-25 north of Wheatland: Grading, draining, milling, paving, and bridge rehabilitation on 7 miles of road (mileposts 94-101). October 2019 completion.
- D6** I-80 between Elk Mountain and Laramie: Pavement resurfacing and repairs to eight bridges on 7 miles of the eastbound and westbound lanes. September 2019 completion.



**Always buckle up.**



**U DRIVE. U TEXT. U PAY**