

NORTH DAKOTA
ASPHALT
CONFERENCE

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“Everybody Goes Home Every Night” Considerations for Work Zone Safety

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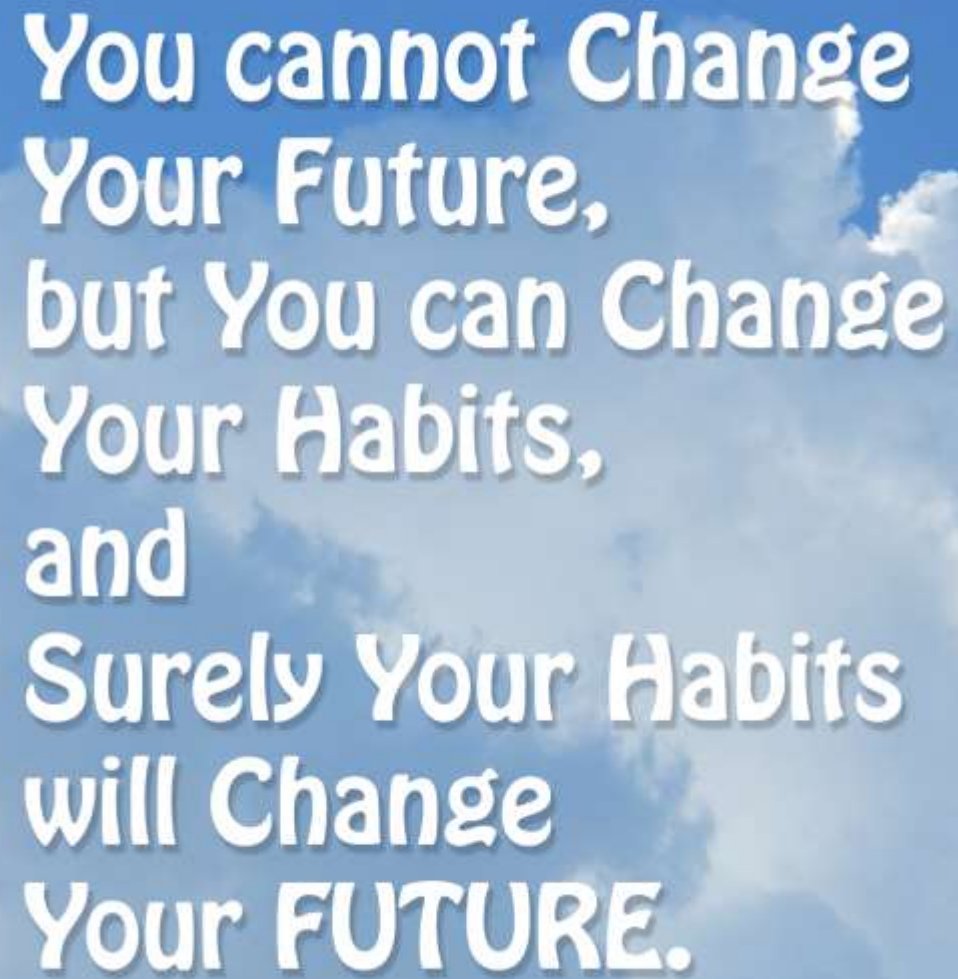
Work Zone Safety

It's the start to getting everyone home that night



It's not enough to think safety. Put it into action...a habit that is a reflex





**You cannot Change
Your Future,
but You can Change
Your Habits,
and
Surely Your Habits
will Change
Your FUTURE.**

The only way to break a
bad habit was to replace it
with a better habit.

Jack Nicholson





Safety is the ultimate zero-sum game...you may have only one chance to get it right



• *One Chance*



One Chance

Work zone changes made, investigation underway after I-94 fatal crash in Moorhead

MnDOT leaders offer sympathies to the family and friends of three Minnesota residents who died in a Friday crash on Interstate 94 in Moorhead.



Emergency responders and investigators respond to a crash on I-94 in Moorhead Friday afternoon, July 15. Steve Elwell / WDAY

[Work zone changes made, investigation underway after I-94 fatal crash in Moorhead - YouTube](#)



JHNEWSANDGUIDE.COM

WYDOT employee killed in street sweeper accident

A Wyoming Department of Transportation employee died Monday in a street sweeper

Takeaways when you Walkaway from this Session

- No job is too small to consider safety
- “It’s hard to predict how traffic will react”
 - Observe, Assess, Investigate and Mitigate. Read the skid marks and continually assess driver reaction. Before you AIM, you have to Observe the target.
 - Setting up signs, barrels, cones, etc. is just the starting point, NOT THE END POINT.
- Workers have the highest risk in the work zone. Start there and work your way out to the traveling public. Then work backwards. Better control of work zone “public” traffic and active “internal” work zone traffic leads to better protection for work zone occupants.
 - “Civilian” and “Construction” traffic have a vehicle and cockpit to protect them. Work zone occupants have nothing but their wits, experience, training and reactions to protect themselves.
- Workers also suffer from fatigue, heat exhaustion, and “tolerance decay” from repetitive work. Design for the lowest common denominator and address PPE (worker condition) concerns that can be mitigated (e.g. dehydration, heat stroke, wellness, etc.).

Takeaways when you Walkaway from this Session (Cont.)

- Threat assessment should instantly lead to risk mitigation. Time isn't always money, it might be lives.
- Safety is an individual responsibility. And the individual is also responsible for everyone else on the team, regardless of job title or project responsibilities.
- Always, **always, always** lean on the AASHTO MUTCD (Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices) and expert Traffic Control resources.
- People, human nature, traffic (amount, hourly flow & classification....% Trucks), project conditions, project phases, project types, lighting and technology are ALWAYS changing: hour to hour, month to month, year to year. Observe and assess (O-AIM) and be proactive, not reactive.

In Closing.....

- Make a change: Your habits, your response, your concern for your friends and fellow workers
- And don't forget the "inside" forces
- The suicide rate in the construction field is 5x the national average

A double “whammy”

- Falls, electrocutions, being struck by objects, and being caught in or between objects are four of the leading causes of construction worker fatalities. These are known as the “Fatal Four” by OSHA and account for more than half of all construction worker deaths each year. (OSHA 2021)
- Suicide Rate by Industry: Construction (males: 45.3 per 100,000-CDC)

TEDx Talk on Mental Health & Suicide Awareness in Construction



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TEDx Suicide in Construction

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The Future is Riding on Ajax



TEDx Suicide in Construction

The End...

- Retirement beckons...Dale's so called "king of asphalt" drops the mic

