

Safety Improvement Teams (SIT) Make Work Zones Safer

On June 2, 2006, The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) entered into an agreement combining forces to reduce collisions, fatalities and injuries in South Carolina within highway construction, maintenance, and utility work zones and in corridors identified as high-risk for speed--related crashes.



Under this contract, four Safety Improvement Teams (SIT) consisting of 24 experienced Highway Patrol Troopers were formed to devote full-time efforts to selective, concentrated and strict enforcement of the state's traffic laws in the Safety Improvement Zones identified by SCDOT. The 24 Troopers assigned to the SIT Team devoted 100% of their time to this enforcement, except during natural disasters or other declared statewide emergency situations. Each team is composed of one supervisor and five Troopers. Troopers were tasked with reducing fatalities, injuries and collisions by utilizing statistical data, speed detection devices and high visibility enforcement in and around work zones.

The agreement between the two agencies has been a tremendous success. The number of injuries and collisions in and around work zones in South Carolina has decreased each year since the conception of the Safety Improvement Team. From June 2, 2006 thru May 31, 2009, these troopers have issued 122,804 citations. These include 5,615 citations for speeding 1-10 mph over the limit; 36,104 citations for over 10 mph; 134 citations for failure to yield the right of way; 196 DUI arrests; 24,384 safety belt citations; 817 child restraint violations; 160 following too closely citations 39,757 warnings and 15,637 other violations.



The South Carolina Department of Transportation and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety are committed to highway safety and urge motorists to drive with caution through work zones.