Springfield, Surrounding Towns "Go Orange" for Work Zone Safety

Springfield and several other southwest Missouri communities have partnered with the Missouri Department of Transportation to “Go Orange” this week to help MoDOT raise awareness for roadway Work Zone Safety.

MoDOT launched “Operation Orange” in 2007, which has also proven to be a successful safety program. Cities and organizations in southwest Missouri have given a lot of support to the annual Operation Orange initiative, which invites area businesses, organizations, landmarks and government offices to illuminate or decorate their locale in orange to show support for Work Zone Awareness Week, which this year runs from April 19-23. The 2010 list of participants from southwest Missouri include: Springfield, Hollister, Rogersville, Pleasant Hope and Hermitage as well as the Springfield Cardinals, the Springfield-Greene Country Library District, Friga Construction and the Branson Landing.

Statistics show that each year about 1,000 people die in work zones throughout the United States; 85 percent of those fatalities are drivers and their passengers, and the others are construction workers. In 2009, 13 people were killed in Missouri work zones and 670 were injured. In 2009 Springfield had 132 reported crashes within or in proximity of construction zones, injuring 50 people. Inattention, following too closely, improper lane use, driving too fast and failing to yield were the top five reasons for work zone accidents last year.

The City of Springfield would like to remind motorists to be aware of safety hazards and approach work zones carefully.