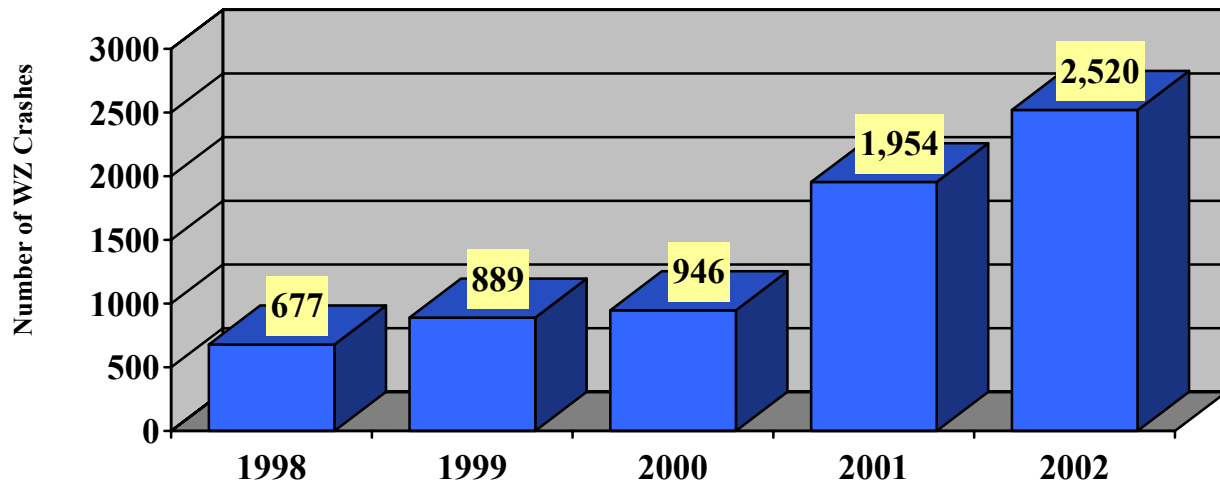


## South Carolina Work Zone Crashes 1998 – 2002

- 🔥 Between 1998 and 2002 there were 6,986 traffic crashes in South Carolina that were work zone related.
- 🔥 Between 1998 and 2002, sixty-two (62) people died in these crashes and an additional 3,088 sustained non-fatal injuries. Between 2001 and 2002, there were 35 persons killed in work zone related crashes and 1,966 injured.
- 🔥 The number of work zone fatalities decreased from 22 in 2001 to 13 during 2002. This is a 41% reduction in work zone fatalities.
- 🔥 Ninety-five percent, or 21 of the 22 people killed in 2001 were motorists, while 86%, or 11 of the 13 people killed in 2002 were either drivers or passengers of a motor vehicle.
- 🔥 The reporting criteria for work zone crashes changed in 2001. Prior to the change there was a growing trend in the number of workzone related crashes, deaths and injuries. Between 2001 and 2002 work zone crashes increased from 1,954 to 2,520. The overall increase between 2001 and 2002 was 29%.
- 🔥 Greenville County was the leading county for this five-year period for work zone crashes with 1,326. This was more than double the number two county, Charleston, which had 557.
- 🔥 Berkeley and Greenville Counties had the most fatalities in work zone related crashes with ten each.
- 🔥 Work zone related crashes occur most often during the afternoon rush hour period, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. This is comparable to crashes in general. A total of 1,738 crashes were reported during this three-hour period, well above the number two period 12:01p.m. – 3:00 p.m. that had 1,387 work zone crashes.
- 🔥 Fatalities occurred most frequently during the morning rush hour, 6:01 – 9:00 a.m. During this time period, 12 people were killed in work zone crashes.
- 🔥 The leading probable cause for work zone related crashes during 1998 – 2002, was Driver Inattention with 1,609. The next five leading causes were Too Fast for Conditions (1,334); Failure to Yield Right of Way (1,008); Following too Closely (573); Improper Lane Change (491); and Driver Under the Influence (239).
- 🔥 The most traffic fatalities, 14, occurred in crashes where the Driver was Under the Influence. The next causes of fatalities in work zone crashes (with number killed in parenthesis) were Too Fast for Conditions (13); Wrong Side/Wrong Way (5); Driver Inattention (3); Improper Lane Change (3); Aggressive Operation of a Vehicle (3); and Fatigued Driver (3).
- 🔥 By a very slim margin, Interstate highways had the most work zone crashes with 1,888. US Primary highways followed closely behind with 1,884. More fatalities occurred on the interstate system and SC Primary roads with 20 fatalities each.

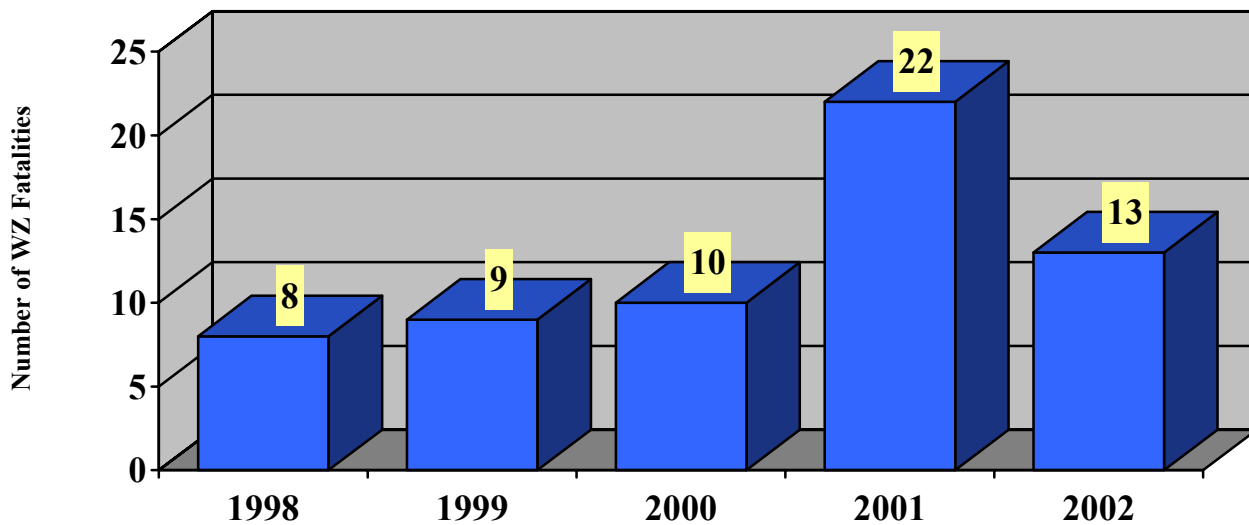


### Work Zone Crashes in South Carolina 1998 - 2002




**Note:** Due to a change in the data collection format the 2001 data is *not* comparable to prior years.


### Work Zone Fatalities 1998 - 2002





**Note:** Due to a change in the data collection format the 2001 data is *not* comparable to prior years.


# National Work Zone Crashes


 The Fatality Analysis and Reporting System (FARS) data indicates that nationally in 2001, 1,079 people died in work zone related crashes. Here are some of the relevant facts regarding these crashes:


 The leading state nationally for fatal work zone crashes in 2001 was Texas with 140. Second was California with 112. South Carolina ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation for work zone fatalities.


 Over the last 5 years the number of persons killed in motor vehicle crashes in work zones has gone from 693 in 1997 to a high of 1,079 in 2001 (for an average of 888 fatalities per year). Out of the 1,079 fatalities, 17 or 1.5% were construction/maintenance Workers.


 In 2001, 1,079 fatalities resulted from motor vehicle crashes in work zones of which 249 resulted from large truck crashes.


 On average from 1997 to 2001, 15% of the fatalities resulting from crashes in work zones were non-motorists (pedestrians and bicyclists).


 Over 40,000 people per year are injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.


 An estimated 5,000 people were injured in large truck crashes in work zones in 2001.


 In 2001, over half of all fatal work zone crashes occurred during the day, while about two-thirds of fatal large truck work zone crashes occurred during the day.

 In 2001, more than two times as many fatal work zone crashes occurred on weekdays compared to weekends.

 In 2001, fatal work zone crashes, regardless of whether a large truck was involved or not, occurred most often in the summer and the fall months.

 In 2001, the number of fatal work zone crashes occurring on rural interstates was nearly 30% greater than the number of fatal crashes occurring on urban interstates (159 compared to 124).

 In 2001, for fatal large truck crashes, the percentage of work zone crashes occurring on urban interstates is twice as high compared to all fatal truck crashes (20% vs. 10%).

 In 2001, the majority of fatal work zone crashes for all vehicles and large trucks occurred on roads with speed limits of 55 miles per hour or greater (57% and 70%, respectively).