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For Immediate Release:
April 15, 2013

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PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY

PVSC Reminds Motorists to Use Caution During ‘National Work Zone Awareness’ Week Workers are now on Roadways for Infrastructure Repairs and Inspections

(NEWARK) – Officials at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission today highlighted the start of ‘National Work Zone Awareness Week’ - April 15-19 - by reminding motorists that their safety risks and responsibilities increase with the beginning of the roadway construction season.

Many of the PVSC’s workers operate in the public right of way and must take the proper precautionary measures to ensure their safety, as well as motorists and pedestrians. The public should be vigilant and cooperative when travelling the roadways. Each spring, construction season kicks into high gear, so it is very important for motorists to make safety their top priority as they approach and pass through these zones. Be prepared to stop, and always be on the lookout for workers who place themselves in danger to make our infrastructure safe and reliable for our citizens.

Facts: During the past 5 years in work zone crashes, more than:

- 4,400 persons died (85 percent of which was the driver or passenger);
- 200,000 persons were injured;
- Drivers are the most frequent fatality in work zone crashes;
- Most work zone fatalities involve working-age adults;
- Rear-end crashes (running into the rear of a slowing or stopping vehicle) are the most common type of work zone crash;
- Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in summer and fall; and
- The majority of fatal work zone crashes occurred on roads with speed limits greater than 50 mph.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has these tips for drivers:

- Obey the Posted Speed Limit;
- Change Lanes Safely;
- Follow Instructions from Flaggers;
- Expect the Unexpected; and
- Be Patient.

Finally, it is always important to avoid distractions such as texting or using a hand-held cell phone while driving. Motorists need to be alert and ready to react. For more information, go to <http://www.nj.gov/pvsc/>.

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