



NEWS RELEASE

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Move over for utility and construction workers

Friends and coworkers will wear orange to honor those hurt in roadside work

Eau Claire, Wis. - (April 27, 2021)—As part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, Xcel Energy reminds drivers to slow down and move over for vehicles and workers on the side of the road—including utility and construction vehicles.

Many drivers slow down or move over when approaching an emergency vehicle on the side of the road. Unfortunately, the same is not always done for the utility and construction workers repairing our roads and restoring our electric and natural gas service, even though these crews are also putting their lives on the line for the public good.

On Wednesday April 28, utility and construction workers around the country will wear orange as part of Go Orange Day, providing a visible reminder of their support for the families who have been impacted in work zone incidents.

Most states have passed move-over laws protecting workers by requiring motorists slow down and merge away from a vehicle working on the side of the road. Unfortunately, many drivers are unaware that the law in their state protects utility workers (including most states where Xcel Energy operates), and they could receive a ticket for not moving over or reducing their speed significantly when passing them.

“Several of our employees have sustained significant injuries after being hit by vehicles,” said Gary Lakey, vice president, safety and workforce relations, Xcel Energy. “We want to increase awareness around this critical safety issue so that everyone can go home safely to their families at the end of each day.”

National Work Zone Awareness Week promotes the following safe-driving practices when drivers see emergency, construction or maintenance vehicles working on the side of the road:

- Slow down as you approach the work zone.
- When possible, safely move over to provide workers with a clear buffer lane from traffic.
- If you can't move over safely, reduce your speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit as you pass the work zone.
- Never use your mobile device while operating a vehicle.

For more information about Work Zone Awareness Week visit
<http://www.atssa.com/Events/NationalWorkZoneAwarenessWeek.aspx>.

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About Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. With its Wisconsin/Michigan headquarters in Eau Claire, Wis., the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit xcelenergy.com or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).