



# News from the Ohio Turnpike

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**For Immediate Release:**

## **Ohio Turnpike promotes distraction-free driving with simulator**

*New Simulated Work Zone also demonstrates what it's like inside a work zone*

**BEREA (April 17, 2015)** – April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and as part of its effort to prevent crashes, the Ohio Turnpike is educating customers on the dangers of distracted driving by teaming up with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and its distracted driving simulator at its Middle Ridge Service Plaza in Amherst today.

Turnpike officials demonstrated to customers the dangers of distracted driving and what it's like working inside a construction zone. In 2013, 3,154 people were killed in the United States in crashes involving a distracted driver. On display as a grim reminder also is wreckage from a distracted driver on the Ohio Turnpike.

Distracted driving is characterized by the presence of visual, manual, or cognitive distractions a person engages in that distracts him or her from the primary task of driving and increases the risk of a crash.

“By keeping our eyes on the road, our minds on the driving task and both hands on the wheel we greatly reduce our chances of causing or being involved in a crash,” said Ohio Turnpike Executive Director Randy Cole. “Eliminating distractions will increase safety for our customers and our workers during the 2015 construction season, the Turnpike’s largest in more than a decade.”

Also—back by popular demand—the Ohio Turnpike hosted a second innovative Simulated Work Zone in the Work Zone Simulation Room.

Nine highway workers have been killed while on the job on the Ohio Turnpike since 1970. Across the nation, 23 highway workers are killed every month. The Turnpike’s Simulated Work Zone reminds travelers that highway workers face injury or death every day because motorists are driving distracted and fail to give them room to work safely.

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