

Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer Addresses Legal Complexities of Construction Zone Crashes Following Rising Work Zone Incidents

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KNOXVILLE, TN - June 25, 2026 -
Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer is highlighting the distinct legal challenges faced by victims of construction zone accidents on Tennessee highways, particularly along the I-40 corridor through Knox County, as state data reveals concerning trends in work zone crashes.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation reported 2,318 total crashes, 563 injury crashes, and 16 fatalities in Tennessee work zones in 2024. TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley noted that 113 TDOT workers have been killed in work zones historically, emphasizing that driver behavior remains the primary cause of work zone crashes despite engineering improvements.

The severity of construction zone accidents was underscored by a fatal five-vehicle chain-reaction crash on I-40 West near Cedar Bluff Road in Knoxville on February 19, 2026. According to WBIR and WATE reporting, a vehicle stopped in traffic was rear-ended, triggering a cascade of collisions that resulted in one fatality. The

KPD Crash Reconstruction Unit led the investigation, with multiple lanes of I-40 remaining closed until approximately 7:45 p.m.

Knoxville construction zone accident lawyer professionals note that Tennessee's Move Over law, codified as T.C.A. § 55-8-132, creates specific liability exposure for drivers in work zones. The statute requires drivers to move over one lane or reduce speed to at least 15 mph below the posted speed limit when passing emergency vehicles, utility vehicles, tow trucks, and highway maintenance vehicles with activated warning lights.

"When a driver violates Tennessee's Move Over law in an active work zone and causes a crash, that statutory violation establishes negligence per se, which provides injured victims with a stronger legal foundation than ordinary negligence claims," said a firm representative for Knoxville Accident Lawyer construction zone accident lawyer services. "In chain-reaction crashes like the Cedar Bluff incident, the sequence of impacts is captured by TDOT traffic cameras and KPD Crash Reconstruction Unit data, but these records are subject to retention limits and must be preserved through formal legal demands within weeks of the crash."

The I-40 corridor through Knox County, particularly the Cedar Bluff to Western Avenue segment and the I-40/I-75 interchange, carries both daily commuter traffic and TDOT maintenance operations. Active work zones in these areas generate recurring crash scenarios where drivers fail to reduce speed, merge unexpectedly, or rear-end stopped vehicles during lane restrictions.

Chain-reaction crashes in active work zones create multi-party liability structures involving the initial rear-end driver, any driver who failed to maintain following distance during lane restrictions, and potentially contractors whose work zone signage or barrier configuration failed to meet TDOT safety standards. Each party may be liable under Tennessee's modified comparative fault standard.

Tennessee's modified comparative fault standard allows injured work zone crash victims to recover damages as long as they are found less than 50 percent at fault. However, insurance adjusters in rear-end chain-reaction crashes routinely investigate whether victims maintained adequate following distance when the initial collision occurred.

Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer is a network of personal injury law firms serving construction zone accident victims and other injury clients throughout Knoxville, Knox County, and East Tennessee. The firm handles construction zone accidents, car accidents, truck accidents, motorcycle crashes, Uber accidents, and pedestrian accident cases on a contingency fee basis, with no upfront costs and free case reviews available

24 hours a day.

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Knoxville Car Accident Lawyer

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