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Kim Carpenter
County Executive Officer

Mike Stark
County Operations Officer

Susan Hakanson
Public Relations Manager

100 South Oliver Drive
Aztec, New Mexico 87410-2432
Phone: (505) 334-9481 Fax: (505) 334-3168
www.sjcounty.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information,
please contact:
San Juan County Public Works
Call: 505-334-4520

Work Zone Awareness Week

San Juan County, NM – Each year in the spring, National Work Zone Awareness Week is held to bring attention to safety in work zones. This year the week will be celebrated April 9 -13. San Juan County Public Works Department and joins DOTs across the country supporting the awareness message and hosting events to honor those lost.

“This year’s national theme is, *Work Zone Safety: Everybody’s Responsibility*,” said Stephen Keaton, San Juan County Public Works Construction Manager. “It truly is everyone’s responsibility! In 2016, there were over 84,000 crashes within work zones in the US. There were 35,000 traffic-related injuries in work zones, and over 700 fatalities. Your driving habits directly impact the well-being of other motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and workers. Be safe in work zones, for our sake, and yours.”

Here are a few reminders to be safe in a work zone.

- Please be observant and courteous when approaching a project site. Slow down, remove distractions and pay attention. Using a mobile device while driving increases your chance of a crash by 4 times.
- Look for and obey signs, including posted speed limits.
- And be aware of traffic control personnel - Road side flaggers are trained and in place to help you move through a project area safely.

The 2018 National Work Zone Safety Poster <attached> depicts several images of the various hazards and obstacles encountered on our roads and in work zones, including: caution signs, cones, barrels, workers, cell phones, bicyclists, and other vehicles. The poster sends a reminder to always keep eyes on the road and to remain alert.

Please direct any San Juan County press and related inquires to Susan Hakanson, San Juan County Public Relations Manager, at shakanson@sjcounty.net or 505-386-8325.