

A Sudden Change of Plans

Video transcript

Audio: blaring high energy rock and roll music

Video: Old fashioned film countdown, highly kinetic video clips of roadway passing under camera, and views from a moving vehicle With “A Sudden Change of Plans” superimposed over.

Audio: music changes from song to song

Video: “Jenny” a young attractive female driving into work zone while applying makeup, eye liner, etc., changing CDs in audio system
She turns down the audio and grabs cell phone chatting...

Video: Work zone shots – workers, equipment, etc.

Audio: “OK, I think we should go to the beach this weekend, yea, totally, it’ll be so much fun”

Narrator: “In a fraction of a second – the music can stop.”

Audio: heart beat sound

Video: Jenny screams and drops the phone. The car careens into a barricade then strikes a worker who falls to the ground with blood running from his head. Other workers run to his aid. The heart beat slows and stops and worker stares blankly and dies.

Audio: dire music

Video: Virginia State Trooper Gloria Aikens steps out of police cruiser and walks up to Jenny who is sitting in car crying.

Trooper: “Ma’am, are you okay? Do you need an ambulance? I’m Trooper Aikens with the Virginia State Police. I am going to need your License, registration, and a statement of what took place, please.”

Jenny hysterical “I’m sorry, is he all right?”

Trooper “Ma’am, you need to calm down, okay. I need you to step out of your vehicle and have a seat in my vehicle. Just calm down.”

Jenny “Is he all right?”

Trooper “I need you to remain calm so that we can find out if he is going to be alright, I am going to need to know what happened?”

Jenny “Will you call my mother?”

Trooper “Ma’am, we can take care of that as soon as we are done.”

Video: Trooper escorts Jenny to patrol car

Jenny in patrol car “Is he okay?”

Trooper “The gentleman that was involved has already been transported to the hospital by ambulance. I’ll head that way once we are finished here.”

Jenny crying “What’s going to happen to me?”

Trooper “Ma’am, for now you will be charged with reckless driving in a work zone. However, if the man you struck does not survive you will be charged with involuntary manslaughter. You are at fault here, due to the fact that you did not pay attention to the work zone warning signs and endangered everyone working in that work zone.”

Video: Close up of Jenny crying

Narrator:

Jenny won’t be going out for cheerleading this semester and the tennis team is suddenly out.

Video: Still shot of Jenny in prom dress – image fades out.

Narrator:

That prom dress will hang on the rack unworn.

Video: Picture of Jenny at her high school graduation – picture fades out

Narrator: ...and even graduating with her class looks questionable.

Jenny has had a sudden change of plans.

Video: A mother and two young children sitting on a blanket in their front yard enjoying each other’s company on a pretty day

Narrator: The Davis family is like many American families. They enjoy being together and they especially like spending time outdoors.

That’s largely the reason Dad works on a road construction crew.

Video: Trooper Aikens and another Virginia State Trooper get out of their patrol cars and approach Mrs. Davis and her children.

Narrator: His job has contributed to his family's lifestyle. Because of the actions of a careless driver, that lifestyle has now changed.

Trooper "Good afternoon ma'am, my name is Trooper Aikens with the State Police. Are you Mrs. Davis? - wife of Tim Davis? Ma'am, I regret to inform you that your husband Tim Davis was involved in a fatal accident in a work zone."

Video: Mrs. Davis looks stunned

Trooper "Ma'am, do you need us to call anyone for you? Is there anything we can do to help you?"

Video of Mrs. Davis and children fades to black.

Video: Work zone footage with workers

Narrator: Work zone safety is a serious matter. Every day workers risk their lives while improving our roads and highways.

But it may surprise you that most of those injured or killed in work zones are motorists.

Each of us has a responsibility to help protect the workers, ourselves, and everyone traveling through work zones.

Here are some things that you can do to improve safety for everyone when driving through a highway work zone.

Video: various work zone signs

Narrator: *Recognize the signs.* Orange and black signs designate highway work zones across the United States – not just in Virginia. Recognize these signs and watch for the warnings they provide.

Video: vehicles driving through various work zones

Narrator: *Drive at the posted speed limit.* Drivers should not speed up to pass or change lanes in a work zone. The small amount of time saved by speeding is not worth the risk of causing an accident.

Pay attention. Each work zone is different, and traffic patterns may have changed since the last time you drove through. Stay alert to everything around you, expect the unexpected and minimize distractions.

Leave plenty of space between vehicles

Unexpected stops often happen in work zones. The number one type of crash in a work zone is a rear end collision, and the leading cause of work zone crashes is following too closely.

Remember that actions have consequences

Drivers in Virginia face fines of up to five hundred dollars for speeding in highway work zones. Careless driving can result in killing or injuring yourself, another motorist or a highway worker.

Work Zone Safety is everyone's responsibility. Do your part and help protect the lives of other motorists and workers, as well as yourself. Don't ruin your life or someone else's. You can help reduce the number of fatalities and injuries that occur each year in highway work zones.

Video: Jenny driving then picks up cell phone

Narrator: Take a look at how things might have turned out differently had Jenny been a responsible driver.

Jenny: "Hey, I'm getting in a work zone, I'll call you back in a few... OK"
Jenny hangs up phone and pays attention to her driving as she drives safely past Tim Davis busy in a work zone.

Narrator sitting on a bulldozer in a work zone "I chose this career because I enjoy working out doors, the money I make and the sense of accomplishment I get by helping build something I can be proud of. But most of all, I enjoy the people I work with. We're a team - working together to help the Commonwealth grow. Now we'll do our part, but you need you to do yours too. Please, stay alert and remember our lives are in your hands."