

Under the Trooper's Hat

By: Trooper Michael Hayen
North Dakota Highway Patrol

Once again road construction is underway, and it is important to remind motorists of the regulations for speeding within a construction zone. Throughout North Dakota, speed limits are reduced within construction zones to allow enough time for motorists and workers to react to potentially dangerous situations.

The reduction of speed limits within a construction zone is effective for the duration of the time the area is under construction. Signs are posted within the zone to alert motorists of the reduced speed. The time of day, day of the week, or the presence of workers **does not** change the speed limit within the construction zone. If a motorist is traveling at 12:30 am on a Monday morning with no workers present in a construction zone that is posted at 45 mph, the motorist must travel at 45 mph or lower, and not at the original speed limit. Simply stated, the posted limit remains the limit until the posted signs are taken down following the completion of the work being done.

I conducted a traffic stop on a motorist for traveling in excess of 80 mph in a posted 55 mph construction zone. It was during the evening hours and there were no workers present. The driver thought the "normal" speed limit of 75 mph would apply. That is not the case, and the driver was cited for speeding in a 55-mph zone.

If a motorist exceeds the posted speed limit in a construction zone **with workers present**, there is a minimum fee of eighty dollars for one through ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit; and eighty dollars plus two dollars for each mile per hour over ten miles per hour over the limit.

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference every day by providing high-quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure. NDHP invites you to visit the FAQ section of the website: www.nd.gov/ndhp; like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/northdakotahighwaypatrol; or join us on Twitter [@NDHighwayPatrol](https://twitter.com/NDHighwayPatrol) or Instagram, www.instagram.com/ndhighwaypatrol, to learn more about traffic safety, get tips, and read NDHP news.