

# Road Rage in Ontario Construction Zones: Why It Matters & How to Stay Safe

## 1. Road Rage: A Threat on Every Lane

A staggering 81% of Ontario drivers say they've witnessed road rage, while only 6% admit to engaging in it themselves.

Aggressive driving claims have risen by about 9.25% since 2020, especially in high-traffic cities like Brampton, North York, Scarborough, Hamilton, Mississauga, and Toronto.

Incident types include tailgating, brake-checking, cutting off, flashing headlights, and swerving, all of which significantly increase collision risk in work zones.

## 2. Construction Zones: Pressure Cookers for Conflict

Drivers often respond poorly to slowdowns, lane merges, and reduced speeds near construction zones.

An ORBA-sponsored survey found that while 80% of drivers recognize construction zones as high-risk for both worker and driver safety, only ~30% admit to driving dangerously in them.

Triggers include: being late, traffic congestion, distracting work zones, and frustration with delays.

## 3. Consequences of Aggression

While 'road rage' isn't a legal offence in Ontario, behaviors can result in charges such as dangerous driving, assault with a weapon (a vehicle), careless driving, and criminal negligence causing injury or death.

Insurance penalties are significant: serious infractions can push premiums into the \$8,000-\$20,000 range.

Victims and bystanders may suffer physical and mental trauma.

## 4. Road Rage Meets Active Work Zones

Construction workers have reported being harassed and intimidated by impatient drivers.

Rapid lane closures or equipment blocking paths can trigger frustration and aggressive maneuvering.

Drivers exceeding reduced speed limits create unsafe dynamics in already tense environments.

## 5. Stay Safe: Tips for Drivers & Workers

For Drivers:

- Slow down and obey posted reduced speeds.
- Allow merges early and be patient.
- Remain calm and avoid confrontational gestures.
- Know your rights and contact police if followed or harassed.

For Workers & Supervisors:

- Maintain clear signage and flow control.
- Report unsafe conditions immediately.
- Provide awareness training for construction crews.

## **6. Final Thoughts**

Construction zones are workplaces, and road rage turns these environments deadly.

Reducing frustration, enforcing safe driving habits, and raising awareness are essential.

Stay calm, stay vigilant, and help protect lives this construction season in Ontario.