

Cuomo announces crackdown on work zone violations

Department of Transportation, Thruway Authority, New York State Police launch 'Operation Hardhat' across state

Reckless & distracted drivers will be targeted in active highway construction and maintenance zones

More than 1,000 tickets issued in work zones during last statewide operation

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday announced the start of "Operation Hardhat," a statewide traffic enforcement detail targeting motorists who drive recklessly through work zones. The operation is a joint initiative between the New York State Police, Department of Transportation and Thruway Authority to crack down on work zone violations and highlight the importance of safe driving when encountering construction, maintenance and emergency operations along state highways.

"New York's highway workers and first responders put their personal safety on the line every day to help ensure our roads and bridges remain safe and in good repair," Cuomo said. "As New Yorkers, we have a responsibility to keep these essential workers out of harm's way – and that means slowing down, moving over and using common sense. We have zero tolerance for those who drive recklessly and endanger the lives of others."

State Troopers will patrol active highway work zones throughout the summer at locations along the Adirondack Northway, the thruway and other highways where maintenance and construction activities are underway. Additionally, DOT, the Thruway Authority and State Police plan to partner

on additional unannounced enforcement efforts in construction zones in the coming months.

Troopers will be present within the work zones, dressed as highway maintenance workers, to identify motorists who disobey flagging personnel, speed through the work zone or violate the state's Move Over Law, which applies to both emergency and maintenance vehicles. DOT, the Thruway Authority and the State Police are also planning a statewide enforcement and education campaign later this summer in an effort to continue promoting driver awareness and the need to follow New York's Move Over Law.

State DOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "Safety is always the top priority of the New York State Department of Transportation and a big part of that is protecting the health and well-being of the dedicated men and women who work to keep our highways and bridges safe. 'Operation Hardhat' is an effective way to raise awareness about dangers our highway workers face each day they are on the job and the need for motorists to eliminate distractions and reduce speeds in work zones. We appreciate the partnership of the New York State Police in keeping our workers and the traveling public safe."



Thruway Authority Executive Director Matthew J. Driscoll said, "Highway and emergency workers are real people who just want to go home to their families after a long day of work. They deserve our complete attention as they do their jobs to make the roadways safer. I encourage everyone driving through a work zone to drive like you or a loved one works there – slow down and be alert for them."

During last year's "Operation Hardhat" enforcement with the State Police, there were 1,048 tickets issued across the state, including 493 speed violations, 92 cell phone violations, 94 seat-belt and two child restraint violations, 72 Move Over violations,

eight failures to obey a traffic control device, two failures to obey a flagger, two DWI and 283 other violations.

Motorists are reminded to "Move Over" a lane, if safely possible, or slow down significantly whenever encountering roadside vehicles displaying red, white, blue, amber or green lights, including maintenance and construction vehicles in work zones.

Motorists are urged to slow down and drive responsibly in work zones. Fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone. Convictions of two or more speeding violations in a work zone could result in the suspension of an individual's driver license.

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NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

IN THE NEWS

Mount St. Mary's adopts new anesthesia model

Mount St. Mary's Hospital announced the implementation of a new anesthesia model.

A press release said, "Mount St. Mary's Hospital continues to implement innovative ways to deliver exceptional patient care in Niagara County. Through a new partnership with Parkside Medical Anesthesia Associates to provide anesthesia services at the Lewiston hospital, Mount St. Mary's is creating a more efficient model of anesthesia care."

"Parkside Medical Anesthesia has been a trusted partner of Catholic Health for many years, providing high-quality anesthesia services at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo and its St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga," said C.J. Urlaub, president of Mount St. Mary's Hospital and Catholic Health senior vice president of strategic partnerships, integration and care delivery-Niagara County. "Through this new collaboration at Mount St. Mary's, we are building on an already strong foundation in our system to strengthen anesthesia care for the Niagara County community."

The new model provides an additional level of professional advancement for staff, enhancing the quality of patient care. The partnership enables physician anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), who have been based exclusively at Mount St. Mary's, to rotate throughout Catholic Health, expanding their clinical experience

and expertise. This new model allows for consistent care across all Catholic Health sites, reflecting the highest industry standards and best practices.

"Parkside Medical Anesthesia is a proven group we can depend on and trust. They were instrumental in our efforts to reopen elective surgeries in Niagara County amid the COVID-19 pandemic," stated Dr. Thomas Cumbo, Mount St. Mary's chief medical officer. "We are confident this new partnership will be mutually beneficial for the Parkside team and our surgical staff, and most importantly, for patients throughout the Niagara Region."

The press release noted, "Based in Buffalo, Parkside Medical Anesthesia Associates was founded in 1990. With more than 30 physicians and CRNAs, the group is highly respected, providing anesthesia services to health care institutions throughout Western New York."

"We are pleased to expand our work with Catholic Health into Niagara County through this partnership with Mount St. Mary's Hospital," said Jason Conant, practice administrator. "We have three decades of demonstrated experience in recruiting and retaining highly skilled physician anesthesiologists and CRNAs. Our commitment to ensuring patient safety and quality care is something we share with Mount St. Mary's, and we look forward to working together to provide exceptional service in Niagara County."

•For patients who suffer from transient or unexplained cardiac arrhythmias (irregular heartbeats), Mount St. Mary's Hospital now offers an implantable cardiac monitor-

ing system that features advanced diagnostic capabilities in a device one-third the size of a AAA battery.

Developed by Medtronic, the Reveal LINQ Insertable Cardiac Monitor with TruRhythm Detection allows physicians to continuously and wirelessly monitor a patient's heart for up to three years to detect irregular rhythms at any time. The system's advanced monitoring capabilities also leads to fewer "false positives," helping physicians detect and treat often difficult to diagnose heart arrhythmias.

"The significant reduction in false positives streamlines data review, saving valuable time, while enabling physicians to make faster, more accurate decisions for their patients," said Arif S. Syed, M.D., a cardiologist at the Mount St. Mary's Cardiac Center, who has implanted 18 Reveal LINQ devices to date. "Implanted through a tiny incision in the patient's chest, the device is so discreet and comfortable that most patients won't even know it's there and can continue living normal lives."

Common uses for Reveal LINQ ICM include monitoring patients for potential episodes of syncope (fainting), bradycardia (slow heartbeat), atrial fibrillation or AF (irregular and often fast heart rate), cardiac pause (brief absence of cardiac activity), and intermittent chest palpitations, as well as "cryptogenic" strokes (strokes of unknown cause).

A press release said, "By offering the Reveal LINQ ICM with TruRhythm Detection to patients, Mount St. Mary's is continuing to lead the way by using the latest, most advanced technology to diagnose and treat heart disease."

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