A close call in a bridge construction zone on Interstate 80 near Cheyenne last year could have been much worse. When a tractor trailer driver didn’t slow down his vehicle from 75 mph to the reduced construction zone speed, he temporarily lost control of his vehicle, which partially drove up on a concrete barrier.

Luckily, no workers were working close to the incident when it happened. “There was cement dust flying everywhere,” said Ethan Crockett, WYDOT engineer in Cheyenne. “The contractors were running to get away. The driver apparently didn’t slow down. There were tire marks on the concrete barrier 18 inches to 2-feet high.”

April 9-13 was National Work Zone Awareness Week a time the Wyoming Department of Transportation reminds motorists to always follow posted speed limits, pay attention and not drive distracted when entering construction zones.

While the number of crashes in work zones are down over the past five years in Wyoming, those crashes still make up more than 200 crashes per year, for a total of 1,271. More than 30 percent of those crashes led to injuries and fatalities.

A flagger stops traffic while heavy equipment moves through a construction zone on Interstate 25 north of Wheatland in October of 2013.