

# ON THE ROAD

Your on-ramp to transportation safety information

## SAFETY ZONE

**A final rule for new labeling requirements for motorcycle helmets** sold in the U.S. has been published by NHTSA. The purpose of the new regulation is to help reduce the availability of novelty helmets by making it more difficult to sell DOT-labeled helmets that do not meet the current Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218. The rule takes effect May 13, 2013.

For more information about NHTSA's new rule, [go here](#).

**How close are we to a crash-proof car?** With the arrival of crash-avoidance technology - systems that can alert drivers to danger and even take action to prevent crashes from happening - car companies are promising to cut the number of crashes on our roads. "The major cause of crashes is the driver not paying attention or drivers being distracted. This technology is giving cars eyes and knows when the driver fails," explains Volvo's senior technical adviser.

To read more about the new technology, [go here](#).

## THE TOLL

**Nearly 370,000 people died in vehicle-related road crashes** between January 2001 and December 2009. Every one of them is on an interactive map. Using data from NHTSA, ITO mapped each fatality at its location. Also included is information on the age, gender and mode of transportation.

To view the map, [go here](#).

## ROADMAP

### And in Kansas

**Road funds are at risk in some states, including Kansas**, over a federal mandate that requires interstate truck drivers to submit proof from a medical professional that they are healthy enough to drive to driver's license offices. States that fail to comply with the federal mandate could lose 5 percent of their highway funds.

To read more about the federal requirement, [go here](#).

**Kansas had the nation's second-largest increase in drunken-driving fatalities in 2010**, 168 total, 45 more than the year before. But these numbers don't reflect some sweeping DUI legislation passed by the 2011 legislature. The new legislation sets up a central repository to track DUI offenses across jurisdictions and imposes higher fines and other penalties, including required use of an ignition-locking device.

For more information, [go here](#).

### Time to Travel

## ROUNDABOUT

**Different road conditions are a factor in crashes involving male and female drivers**, according to a study from Purdue University. Men over age 45 are much more likely to crash their vehicles on icy and snowy roads while female drivers of all ages lose control and crash on rain-slicked roads. The associate director of the study found the results "surprising."

For more differences in male and female drivers, [go here](#).



Plan ahead by checking out up-to-date driving conditions, construction areas, and closed roads across Kansas. For a detailed look, visit the [KanDrive](#) website, call 511, or visit [511mm.ksdot.org](http://511mm.ksdot.org) on your mobile device.

## In the Classroom

**"Share the Keys" driver's education program for teens and parents** is making headlines in Chester, N.J. A few dozen New Jersey schools have instituted mandatory driver's education classes for parents, and the state is now considering making the requirement universal. The concept is catching on around the region as states try to reduce the number of auto crashes involving young drivers.

For further details about this program, [go here](#).