



## Safe Driving: Spring Weather Challenges

Kansas is known for its changeable weather. We experience wind, rain, hail, fog, and tornadoes - all of which affect driving conditions.

Visit [KanDrive.org](http://KanDrive.org) or use the KanDrive app for continually updated information on weather, road conditions, construction zones, and details for commercial vehicles and drive safely when encountering various weather events.



On rainy days, increase your following distance and give yourself plenty of time to stop.

In Kansas, it is the law that when you use your wipers continuously, you must also turn on your headlights and taillights.

Make sure your tires have enough tread to handle wet roads without losing traction.

Slow down to a speed that will allow you to control your vehicle. If you do hydroplane, take your foot off of the accelerator and steer in the direction you want to go.

Avoid driving through large puddles and flooded roadways.

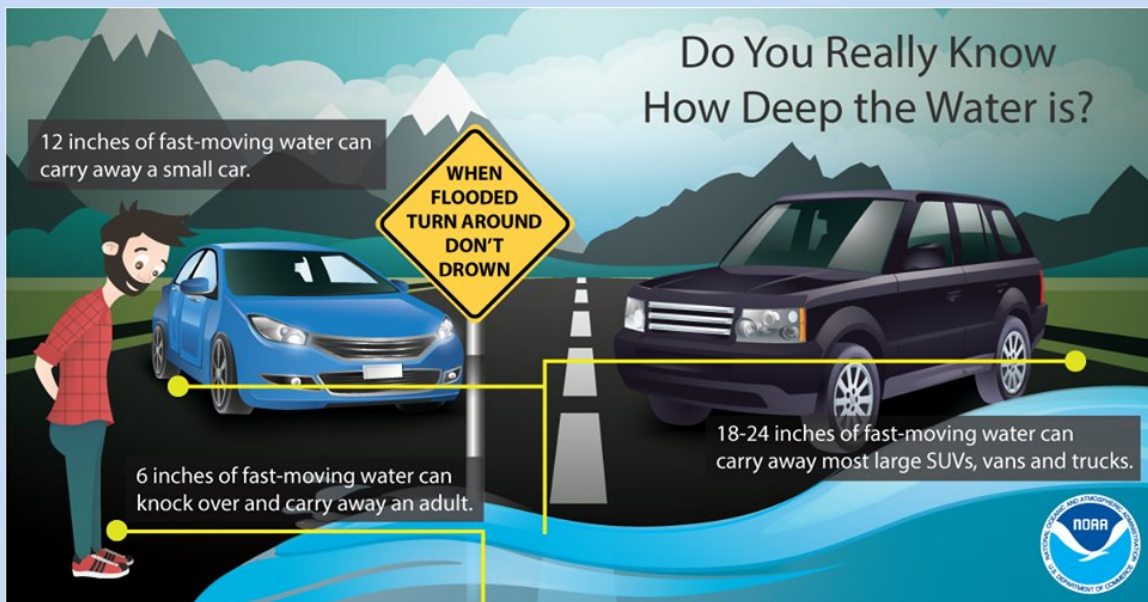
Avoid flooded roads. Even when just a small section is underwater, **TURN AROUND - DON'T DROWN.**

Less than a foot of water can carry away a vehicle. If you get swept downstream, you and your passengers could drown.



Water can hide large potholes, debris, or washed-out sections of roadway that makes driving dangerous.

If you have to drive through a flooded area, first check the area to make sure no power lines are in contact with the water. Move forward slowly and steadily and be ready to quickly abandon your vehicle for higher ground through an open door or window.



Seeing lightning bolts in the clouds? Don't let them distract you from the road ahead.

Stay in your vehicle to be protected during a thunderstorm. Avoid open vehicles such as convertibles, motorcycles, and golf carts. A lightning strike can damage a vehicle's antenna, electrical system, or tires.

Slowing down is key. It allows you more time to react to bright flashes of lightning that can temporarily blind you.

Watch for any fires or downed power lines caused by lightning.



Driving through hail can be scary - and loud! Stay inside your vehicle when it is hailing to avoid being injured.

Find a safe place to stop during a hail storm. Do NOT stop under an overpass, as you risk being hit from behind by passing traffic.



On windy days, make sure to keep both hands on the wheel to keep control of your vehicle.

Watch for flying debris that may cross the road.

Be cautious around vehicles with items that are not secured and could come loose. Do not linger near trailers, which can be blown over.

Strong winds can affect SUVs and trucks with high centers of gravity. If possible, avoid driving such vehicles until winds calm.

If there is a tornado watch or warning near you, the safest thing to do is to take shelter and stay off of the road.

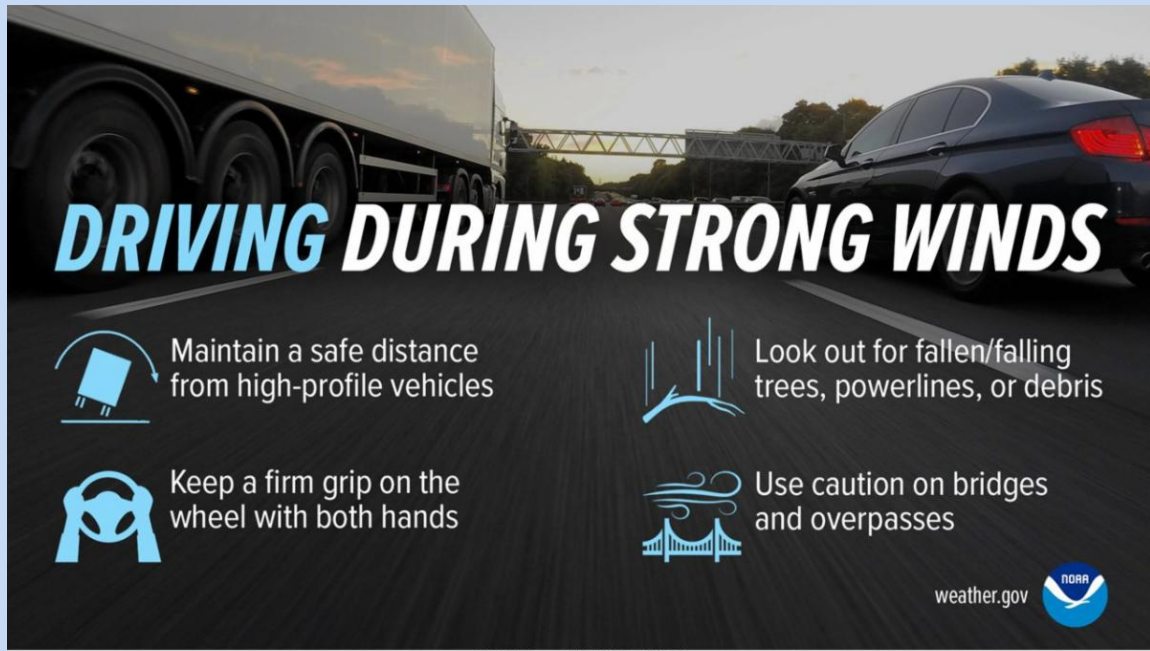
If you are driving during a storm, listen to local radio stations for updated road closures and weather warnings.

If you see a funnel cloud or tornado, do not try to drive towards it or away from it. You cannot outrun a tornado and it is extremely dangerous to go towards it because of the debris it will lift and hurl through the air.





In case of a tornado, stop and find shelter. If no buildings are nearby, pull off of the road and get out of your vehicle. Lie face down down in a ditch or on the


lowest ground available and cover your head with your hands.

Tornado shelters can be found at toll plazas along the Kansas Turnpike.



**DRIVING DURING STRONG WINDS**

-  Maintain a safe distance from high-profile vehicles
-  Look out for fallen/falling trees, powerlines, or debris
-  Keep a firm grip on the wheel with both hands
-  Use caution on bridges and overpasses

weather.gov 

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### Safe Driving Tips for Spring

Springtime weather differs across the country, so driving conditions and cautions differ, too. "The things you're looking out for in one state might be different than in another," AAA spokesman Andrew Gross says. If your spring is rainy, a common situation, consider key equipment first.

[Read More](#)

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



## Vehicle Safety Recalls Week



More than 50 million vehicles on the road today have unresolved safety recalls. That's more than one in five vehicles. This poses an urgent and serious risk to drivers and passengers.

[Check To Protect](#) is a national campaign led by the National Safety Council that encourages drivers to check the recall status of their vehicles and have open recalls fixed immediately. It is no longer necessary to wait for a recall notice in the mail. Drivers simply enter their vehicle identification number or license plate number.

Getting a recall repaired is free at any dealership, whether you purchased the vehicle there or not. Just call to schedule an appointment and to make sure parts are available.

The service is not only for individual vehicle owners. Businesses and other organizations that operate fleets can conduct [bulk recall checks](#).

[Click Here To Learn More](#)

## Traffic Safety Minute Resources for Staff Meetings

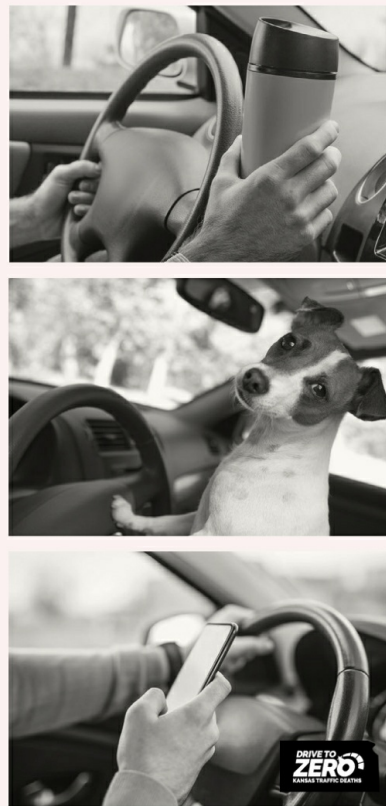
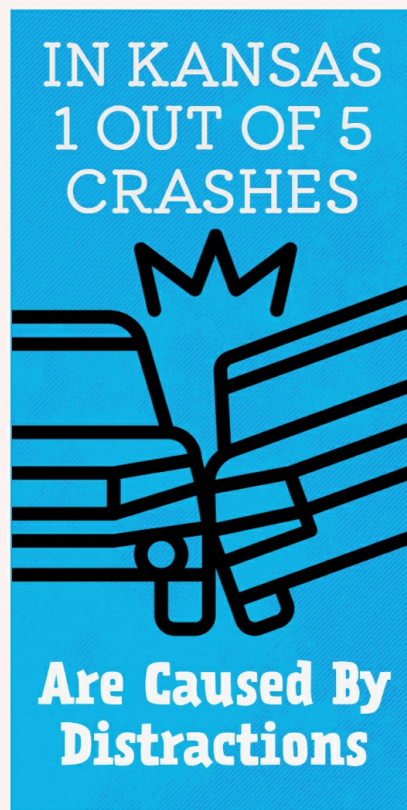
When we think of March, it's easy to associate it with impaired driving. Between St Patty's Day and March Madness, there's a lot of reckless behavior going on.

Ideally, no one is partaking in impaired driving while at work, but we still share

the road with those who make bad decisions. Make sure your drivers are thinking about different events going on in the spring and areas to avoid to prevent crashes with impaired drivers.

It's also good to encourage everyone, regardless of being on the clock or off, to make smart choices when celebrating! Things that happen off the clock can certainly impact the ability to work.

**View the KDOT 2021 Traffic Crash Facts Book**



## Distracted Driving

Before picking up your phone while driving to check the latest scores or your bracket, know that 3,142 people died in distracted-driving crashes in 2020.

Yes, simply glancing at your phone for a few seconds while driving is

considered distracted driving. Other distracting activities for drivers include talking on your phone or to others in your vehicle, texting or streaming on your phone, eating and drinking, or fiddling with the radio, entertainment or navigation system.

## Drunk Driving

If you're out watching one of the many games over the three-week tournament, know that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.

On average, one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality occurred every 45 minutes in 2020; a total of 11,654 people died in drunk-driving crashes.

Even a small amount of alcohol can affect a person quickly; for example, someone with a blood alcohol concentration of .02 can have some loss of



judgment. Learn more about the effects of blood alcohol concentration

If you're going out to watch a game, consider these tips:

- Before drinking, choose a sober friend as a designated driver.
- Schedule a ride-sharing, ride-hailing or taxi service.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, pull over somewhere safe, and call law enforcement immediately.

If you're hosting a party where there's alcohol, be sure to offer non-alcoholic drink options, and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.



### Drug-Impaired Driving

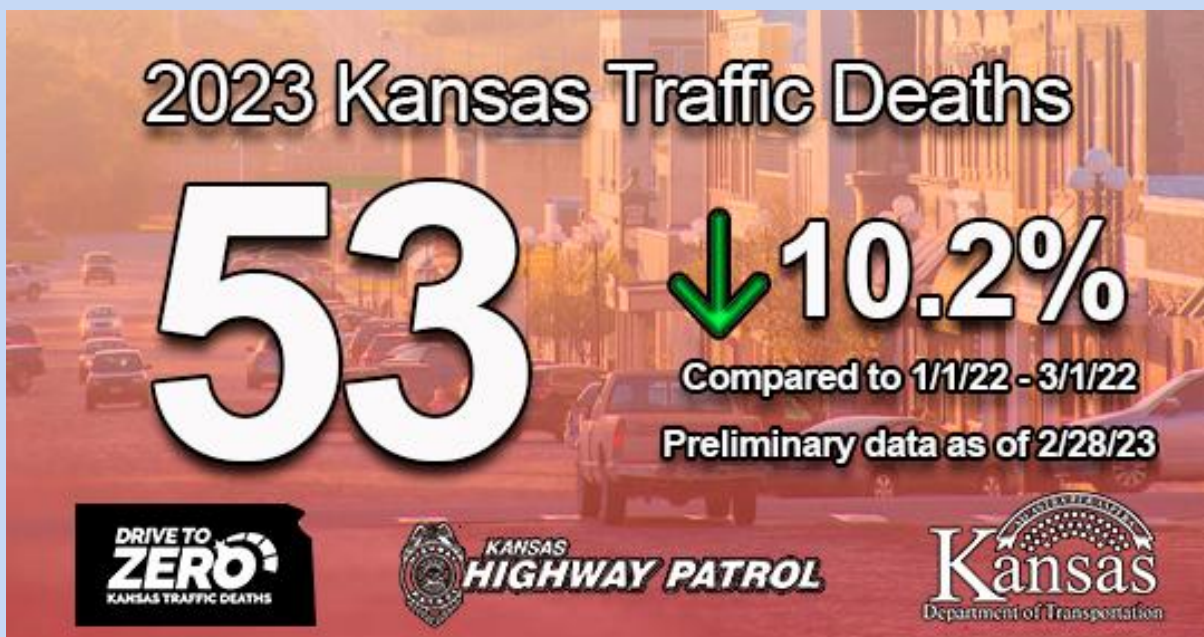
Drugs can negatively affect your driving without you even realizing it. Impaired drivers can't accurately assess their own impairment, and should never drive after taking or using any medication or substances that could affect their driving ability.

Though your March Madness bracket will likely get busted,

don't you get busted because of your actions behind the wheel. If you find yourself asking the question, "Am I okay to drive?" then you already have your answer: Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.



## Busted Bracket? Keep Your Rage Off The Road



## We Help Employers Save Money and Lives!

The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office offers you **FREE** traffic safety brochures, posters, flyers, and giveaway items.

PLUS, our website gives you



information on traffic safety topics like teen drivers, distracted driving, drunk driving, motorcycle safety, and more!



## Hosting a Health and Safety Fair? We'd love to be involved!

Did you know we can bring FREE safe driving programs directly to your community organization or workplace?

From car seats to how getting older affects your driving, we provide help and advice for on how to stay safe on the roads.

**Visit Our Website - [ktsro.org](https://ktsro.org)**



## Transportation Safety Conference

This conference provides valuable information for law enforcement personnel, court professionals, state and local government officials, engineers, safety advocates, EMT and EMS workers, educators and counselors, special interest group representatives and more. Keynote and breakout sessions cover injury control, law enforcement, youth issues\*, roadway safety, medical marijuana and public safety, older driver issues, children in vehicles, and more.

[Read More](#)

**CLICK HERE To Download Drive  
Better ICT Materials**

**CLICK HERE To Download Drive  
Better KC Materials**

**Traffic Safety On The Job**

**Reporters Rocking Seat Belts**



**Spotted at Transport Brewery in Shawnee**





## US69 Meeting in Overland Park

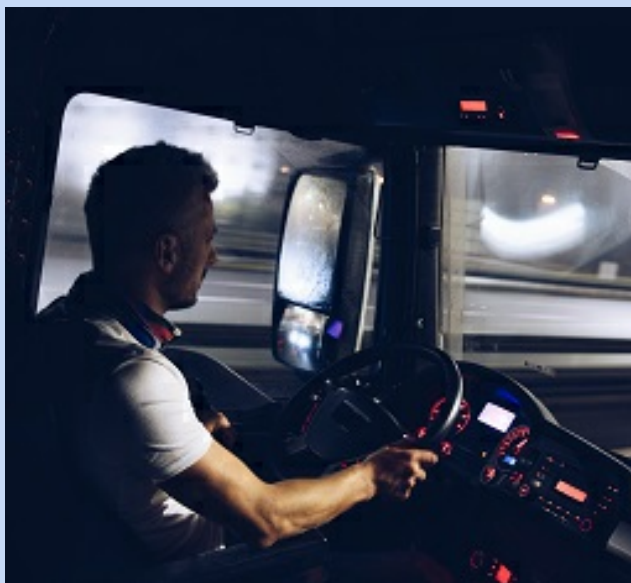




To be featured in our newsletter, send your pictures to [pmiddleton@dccca.org](mailto:pmiddleton@dccca.org) or tag @DriveSafeKansas when posting it on social media.

## Driver Safety Programs

### Drivers Education Schools in Kansas



### Employer-Based Driver Safety Programs

The TRB Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program's BTSCRP WebResource 1: Employer-Based Driver Safety Programs is based on an assessment of what elements in employer-based traffic safety programs and other behavior change programs are likely to change driver behavior and workplace safety culture.

[Read More](#)





## Online Defensive Driving Courses - National Safety Council

NSC Defensive Driving Online Courses deliver the most relevant, leading-edge content to motivate and educate employees to be safe, responsible drivers. You can trust NSC to best train drivers to avoid collisions, crashes, injuries or worse.

[Read More](#)

## KANSAS Traffic Safety Resource OFFICE



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[ktsro.org](https://ktsro.org) | 800-416-2522 | [ktsro@dccca.org](mailto:ktsro@dccca.org)

Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office | 2930 SW Wanamaker Dr. Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66614

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