Do you know how to drive safely in Kansas winters?

Snow, sleet, and ice will undoubtedly make their way through the state this winter and if you have to travel, be prepared with safe driving tips found on the newest page of our website.

Driving in Bad Weather not only lists reminders about winter weather, it also gives you safe driving suggestions for days with thunderstorms, hail, or high winds.
Check out the new KanDrive.org!

KanDrive.org now features a map of the entire state that you can overlay with information on traffic incidents, construction zones, speed limits, road conditions, weather radar, and more!

Schools sign up for SAFE

While the pandemic has thrown Kansas schools into a variety of learning schedules, it has not deterred them for making the SAFE program a priority for students.

SAFE is a free, teen-run, peer-to-peer program focusing on increasing teen restraint compliance through education, positive rewards, and enforcement. It is designed to bring awareness to the importance of wearing a seatbelt, therefore reducing the number of motor vehicle-related injuries and fatalities among Kansas teens.

"People are still driving and traffic crash fatalities are not going down," said Laura Moore, State SAFE Coordinator for the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office.

Students participating in SAFE this year have held seatbelt pledge drives at football games, invited the Kansas Highway Patrol to bring its seatbelt convincer to their schools, and participated in radio interviews to promote buckling up and driving without distractions.
"SAFE is free and brings a sense of normalcy to schools for students," Moore said. "And it's fun!"

SAFE 2020 - 2021

What is SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone)?

Learn more about SAFE here.

Deer Are On The Move
While deer can be spotted near roadways any time of the year, motorists should be especially vigilant in the fall for deer crossing roadways due to the mating season.

Eight people were killed and 556 people were injured in deer-vehicle crashes on Kansas roadways in 2019.

If a driver has a collision, they should move their vehicle to the shoulder, if possible, and call law enforcement - KHP dispatch at *47, the Kansas Turnpike at *KTA and local law enforcement at 911.

Here are tips to help motorists avoid crashes with deer:
* Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk, when deer are more active.
* If you see one deer, watch for others, as they seldom travel alone.
* Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces, such as parks and golf courses, and near water sources such as streams and ponds.
* Deer crossing signs show areas where high numbers of vehicle/deer crashes have occurred in the past. Heed these warnings.
* Use bright lights when there is no oncoming traffic and scan the road ahead of you to watch for deer.
* Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer—the most serious crashes sometimes occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle.
* Always wear a seat belt and use appropriately-fitted child safety seats—they are your best defense should you be involved in a crash.

Anyone involved in a deer-vehicle crash resulting in personal injury or property damage that totals $1,000 or more is required to immediately report the crash to the nearest law enforcement agency. Failure to report any traffic crash is a misdemeanor and may result in suspension of driving privileges.

A salvage tag is required to remove a deer carcass, or any part of the carcass, from the crash site. Tags can be issued by KHP troopers, sheriff's deputies or KDWPT game wardens.

E-scooter Injuries Studied
A study on e-scooter injuries released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) provides critical context regarding why riders are injured. The data highlights the importance of several recommendations in the recent Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) report, "Understanding and Tackling Micromobility: Transportation's New Disruptor."

Like the IIHS study, the GHSA report finds that while e-scooter riders prefer using bike lanes, when these lanes are not available they are more likely to use the sidewalk due to safety concerns about riding alongside vehicular traffic. Investments in infrastructure such as protected bike lanes provide benefits to all road users by providing safer travel spaces for bicyclists and e-scooter riders, reducing the potential for crashes with motor vehicles and pedestrians.

The IIHS study also notes that nearly 40 percent of the injured individuals were first-time e-scooter riders, pointing to inexperience as a factor in crashes. This, too, tracks with GHSA's recommendation to increase on-device training. Learn-to-ride events coupled with ongoing practice can help individuals build skill and reduce their crash risk.

The number of trips on shared micromobility devices - pedal-powered and electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters) and other small transportation devices - rose to 136 million in 2019, a 60 percent increase over the previous year. As trips have increased, so too has the potential for crashes, with hospitals reporting triple digit spikes in e-scooter injuries and hospital admissions.

Micromobility-involved crashes and injuries are likely underreported due to the lack of a universal reporting standard, which is why GHSA believes that studies like the one released by IIHS are critical for helping to make the roads safer for the riders of these devices. The good news, noted Pam Shadel Fischer, GHSA's Senior Director of External Engagement, is that we are beginning to understand the challenges posed by the growth in these devices, so that states and cities across the U.S., in partnership with micromobility providers, can take appropriate action to protect these vulnerable road users.

Read the study here.
"Booster to Belts" Teaches Kids to Buckle Up

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation's Child Observational Safety Belt study, only 84% of children age 5-9 (average booster seat age), are buckling up.

For this reason, KTSRO developed Booster to Belts as a fun and interactive way to encourage children in kindergarten through 3rd grade to learn the importance of buckling up and using a booster seat.

Seatbelts are designed for adults and booster seats are designed to help children fit the seatbelt correctly. So a booster seat literally BOOSTS a child up! It is important for children and their families to know the importance of boosters seats in keeping children safe in a crash.

Boosters to Belts is intended for kindergarten through 3rd grade. For the Booster to Belts presentation reimbursement, participants must conduct a Booster to Belts presentation for all 4 grade levels. That can be all at once, in an auditorium, for example, or it can be in smaller group, such as by grade level.

For more information, click here.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
Nov. 15 is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year.

It is a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and seriously injured on the world's roads and to acknowledge the suffering of all affected victims, families, and communities - millions added each year to countless millions already suffering: a truly tremendous cumulative toll. It also pays tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, law enforcement officers, and medical professionals who deal daily with the traumatic aftermath of crashes.

On Nov. 15, we will join with organizations and individuals around the globe to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

We invite you to share your stories and pictures of loved ones who were affected by a crash. Add the hashtag #WDoR2020 to your post to support traffic safety efforts to save lives.

Learn more here.
Our Mission is to provide public information and education to protect Kansans from avoidable injury or death on Kansas roadways.

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