

TRAFFIC SAFETY AT WORK



Distracted Drivers Pose Risks for Everyone on the Road

Kansas ranks third in the nation for fatality crashes caused by distracted driving.

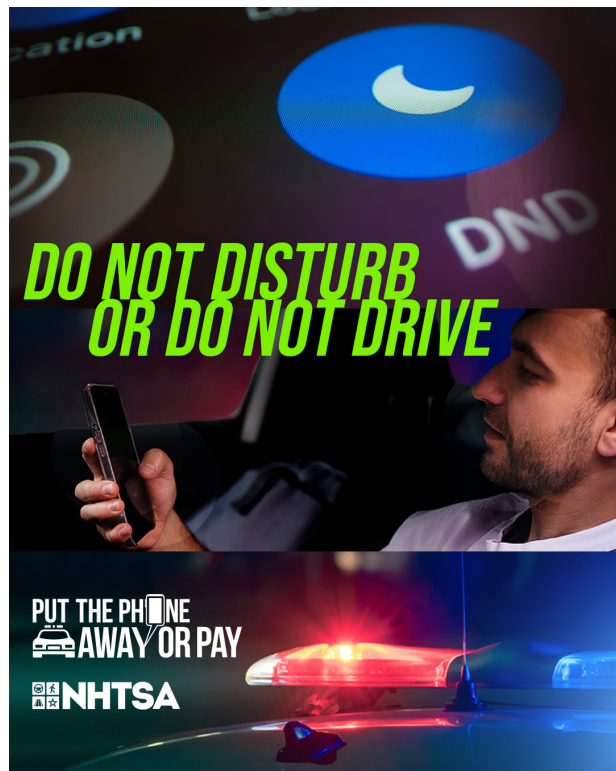
In 2023, 115 fatality crashes were reported in the state due to distracted driving, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In 2024, distracted driving was responsible for more than 10,000 crashes or 17% of all crashes according to the Kansas Department of Transportation. While that number is staggering, there is a silver lining to that statistic. Most distracted driving crashes are preventable! The first step to preventing distracted driving is understanding the common types of distractions:

- Visual: Taking eyes off the road (i.e. checking GPS, passengers, or noticing scenery)
- Manual: Taking hands off the wheel (i.e. eating, drinking, texting, etc.)
- Cognitive: Taking focus away from driving (i.e. talking to passengers, talking on the phone via hands free devices, intense thinking, emotional distress, etc.)

All of those distractions have major effects on your road safety while driving.

- Increased risk of crash: texting or working with your phone increases crash risk by 2 to 6%
- Reduced reaction time: At 55 mph, reading a text means your eyes are off the road for 5 seconds and you travel the length of a football field without watching where you're going
- Fatalities and injuries: As noted above, 10,000 crashes in Kansas in 2024 could have been avoided. Imagine the lives that could be saved!



- Vulnerable road users: On average, 1 in 5 people killed in distracted driving crashes are pedestrians, bicyclists, or those outside of a vehicle

Now that we understand what the distractions are and how they affect our driving, how do we stop? Breaking old habits can be hard, but this one is important. Here are 3 easy steps:

1. Put your phone away! Place it in a handbag, glovebox, the trunk, or anywhere that it is not accessible while driving.
2. Set up your GPS, music, heater/air conditioner, and anything else you may need while driving before you leave.
3. If you have a passenger in the vehicle with you, make them your designated texter. And, most importantly, **FOCUS ON THE ROAD**. If you have an important call to make or text to send, pull over in a safe area and handle that before you begin driving again.

Everyone deserves to get where they're going safely, including you!



[**Learn More About The Risks Of Distractions While Driving**](#)

Dangers of Drugged Driving

If you've used any impairing drug, do not drive. Call a sober driver, a ride sharing service, or a taxi. Someone who's high shouldn't be making decisions about driving; their thought processes and physical reflexes can be slowed, putting them at higher risk of being in a crash where they or someone else could be severely injured or killed.

If you think driving while high from marijuana won't affect you, you are wrong: It has been shown that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.

DUI

DOESN'T JUST MEAN

BOOZE



[Learn More About The Risks Of Drugged Driving](#)

[Traffic Safety Events](#)



The 31st annual KDOT Transportation Safety Conference will be held April 21-22, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, KS.



The 31st Annual Kansas Transportation Safety Conference is your chance to learn the latest developments in transportation safety from experts in the field.

Participants will have the opportunity to receive up to 9.5 contact hours of instruction and participate in networking breaks to meet and talk with speakers, colleagues, and vendors in the exhibit hall.

This conference provides valuable information on transportation safety concerns for law enforcement personnel, court professionals, state and local government officials, engineers, EMT and EMS employees, SAFE School youth, driving educators and counselors, and others interested in transportation safety issues.

Motivational keynote and plenary speakers:

- Keynote: Devin Henderson, “What Else Is Possible”
- Plenary Day 1: Melissa Wandall, “Purpose in Progress: Resilience that Restores and Saves Lives”
- Plenary Day 2: Bill DeMott, “#NoMoreEmptySeats — It Made A Difference For That One”

Conference session topics include:

- Prioritizing Safety for Kids Walking, Biking, and Rolling to School
- Driving Change: The Work Zone Safe Initiative
- The Public Trust Toolkit: Winning Support for Safety Decisions
- How to Identify and Leverage Local Influencers
- Public Transportation: Safe Mobility for an Aging Population
- Community First Aid and Crash Response
- 2025 Windstorm in Western Kansas Recap
- Using Drones in Crash Response and Post-Crash Care Medical Response
- Kansas Safety Corridor Pilot Program: Update from the Halfway Point

- Designing Safer Intersections: Proven Solutions, Public Engagement, and Lessons from Missouri
- An Overview of NCHRP 20-102(24): Infrastructure Modifications to Improve the Operational Conditions of Automated Vehicles
- Advancing Traffic Safety Analysis with Replica's Driver Event Data
- EV and AV Crash Response
- CMV Safety and How You Can Help
- Taming Traffic: Diverse Speed Management Strategies for Safer Communities and a Case Study: Dodge City's SS4A Speed Assessment
- Institutionalizing the Safe System Approach
- Regional Breakout Sessions

Continuing education credits: In addition to the regular continuing education credits offered for this conference, we will be offering EMS and AICP credits.

Sponsored by University of Kansas Jayhawk Hospitality and a federal grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend University of Kansas sponsored events. If you require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this event, please contact Grace Grant by March 30, 2026, at ggrant@ku.edu or 785-312-2107.

Kansas Transportation Safety Conference Information

2026 Kansas Move with MADD & 5K



The 2026 Move With MADD & 5k is Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) signature fundraising event that will be held on May 30th to help raise awareness and funds to end impaired driving for good. We hope you will join the movement to ensure safer roads in our community.

Read More

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: PutOnTheBRAKES.org CALL US AT: 704-720-3806 FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteer@PutOnTheBRAKES.org



FREE* ADVANCED DRIVERS TRAINING TEEN PRO-ACTIVE DRIVING SCHOOL

Teens will improve skill & confidence behind the wheel during this three hour course

5 Hands On Driving Courses:

Car Recovery & Control | Panic Stop
Drop Wheel Recovery | Distraction Driving | Crash Avoidance/Slalom



To Participate Teen 15-19 must have:

- Valid Learners Permit or Drivers License
- 30 hours of driving experience
- Must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian

*\$99 refundable deposit to secure your spot in the class

May 2nd & 3rd, 2026

SATURDAY:
8:00am-11:00am | 11:30am-2:30pm | 3:00pm-6:00pm

SUNDAY:
8:00am-11:00am | 12:00pm-3:00pm

Partially funded by:



400 Speedway Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66111

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June 13th & 14th, 2026

SATURDAY:
8:00am-11:00am | 11:30am-2:30pm | 3:00pm-6:00pm

SUNDAY:
8:00am-11:00am | 12:00pm-3:00pm

Partially funded by:



8151 N Hartman Arena Dr
Park City, KS 67147

We Are Here To Help You



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

We can bring FREE safe driving programs and presentations to your community organization or workplace.

Request a Presentation or Training

Request Free Materials Shipped To You

Drive Better ICT - English



Drive Better ICT - Spanish

Drive Better KC - English

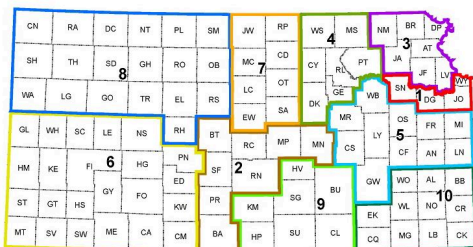


Drive Better KC - Spanish

Drive Better KS - English



Drive Better KS - Spanish



Kansas Rides is for Kansas Public Transportation across the entire state of Kansas. Find information about public transportation in all 105 Kansas counties.

**Kansas Rides
Kansas Public
Transportation**

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Rides**

2026 Kansas Traffic Crash Deaths

65



21.69%



KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL



Compared to 1/1/25 - 3/31/25
Preliminary data as of 3/31/26

These are preliminary numbers which can change based on trauma and investigation outcomes.

[List of Drivers Education Schools in Kansas](#)

[National Safety Council Online Defensive Driving Courses](#)

KANSAS TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE OFFICE



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Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office

This material was prepared by the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office under contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of KDOT and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by KDOT.

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