

MAY/JUNE 2010

## *It's Raining, It's Pouring...*

### *Tips for driving in the rain*

The Kansas Turnpike Authority and Kansas Highway Patrol Troop G want to remind motorists to drive safely during rainstorms and to turn on headlights in adverse conditions.

Kansas law requires drivers to turn on their headlights when windshield wipers are in continuous use.

"It's a good practice to use your headlights and it's the law," said Captain John Walters, Troop G Commander. "Using your headlights in poor conditions allows you to see the road better, and it helps other drivers see you."

#### **Other tips for driving in the rain include:**

- Reduce your speed. The speed at which your vehicle can hydroplane depends on the condition of your tires and the weight of your vehicle.
- Use your windshield wipers and headlights to allow for better visibility.
- Turn off cruise control. During a rainstorm, you'll want to have as much control of your vehicle as possible, allowing you to take full advantage of your defensive driving skills.
- Allow for more driving time in any inclement weather situation.
- Never drive through standing water. One general rule is not to drive into water that can reach the bottom of your vehicle or 2 feet of water, whichever is less. If water can reach the body of your car, it can make it float.
- Use extra caution.

# NEWS

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## **Taking a break for safety** *Annual demonstration serves as reminder to be safe on the road*

As the summer travel season kicks off, the Kansas Turnpike Authority and Kansas Highway Patrol will be focusing on long-trip and vacation travelers.

Each summer, the KTA and KHP host a Safety Break to encourage travelers to take a few minutes away from the road to refresh. The event serves as a reminder during the peak travel season to be safe on the road.

"The information provided at the Safety Break is very basic but it can save your life," said KTA Safety Coordinator Steve Rust.

The Safety Break includes a variety of safety-related demonstrations and information. The KHP Rollover Demonstration simulates what happens in a rollover accident to occupants who are and aren't wearing safety belts while DUI goggles help participants understand just how impaired they are at different blood alcohol levels. Also provided at the Safety Break is infor-



*The KHP rollover demonstration shows how an unrestrained person can be ejected in a rollover accident.*

mation on driving safely, child safety seat installation, and small take-away items to remind visitors to live and drive safely.

Safe Kids, Inc., also participates in the annual event to assist with child safety seat checks and answer travelers' questions about the installation or fitting of a seat.

Whether KTA and KHP representatives are present for a Safety Break or not, all travelers are encouraged to take a break while driving to avoid fatigue.

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# Construction zones ahead: *Watch for workers on the road*

As temperatures increase, construction and maintenance on roadways also increases — not just on the Kansas Turnpike, but on roadways across the nation.

Drivers should use extra caution in work zones, paying attention especially to their following distances and speed.

Not only does inattentive driving pose an extra threat for construction workers in work zones, it is dangerous for drivers and can also lead to hefty fines. In fact, fines in construction and work zones are doubled and drivers can also be ticketed outside of construction zones for not moving left for a maintenance or emergency response vehicle, if it is safe to do so.

"Whenever there are workers present on the roadway, it's especially important to give them plenty of room," said Capt. John Walters, Commander of the Kansas Highway Patrol's Troop G that is assigned to the Turnpike.

In Kansas, five people were killed and 490 people were injured in work zone crashes last

year, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation

Inattention, following too closely, not yielding, fatigue and driving too fast — all driver-related — are the top contributing circumstances of crashes in work zones. More than 85 percent of all the people killed in work zone crashes are motorists.

Several tips to keep in mind when driving in work zones include:

- Pay attention to the signs and obey road crew instructions
- Don't tailgate and don't speed
- Expect the unexpected
- Stay alert
- Be patient

This summer, construction and maintenance crews will continue work on the Turnpike in the Lawrence area, from Mileposts 202 through 210. Other projects include resurfacing in Sumner and Chase counties. For additional construction information on the Turnpike, visit [www.ksturnpike.com/ConstUpdates.shtml](http://www.ksturnpike.com/ConstUpdates.shtml).



### Sign up for KTA Text Alerts at [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com).

*This service is provided free of charge by the KTA to alert travelers to emergencies on the roadway. Check with your cell phone carrier for any charges specific to your plan.*

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