



Drive as if your life depends on it — because it does!

The 10th annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day® is October 10th.

On this day each year, the Kansas Turnpike Authority and partners at the Kansas Department of Transportation and AAA of Kansas, encourage each driver to drive as if his or her life depended on it — because it does!

Its goal was and remains today to deliver messages to the public about the major causes of transportation fatalities — chiefly highway fatalities — and their avoidance, in an upbeat fashion.

Again this year, the Kansas committee for Put the Brakes on Fatalities will be participating in a 20-day safety blog to provide important traffic safety information. The Turnpike's Safety Coordinator Steve Rust will be blogging about Five Ways to Save Your Life.

Topics of other guest bloggers include seat belt safety, driver inattention, work zone safety, bicycle and pedestrian safety tips, drinking and driving, and motorcycle safety.

Find these and other safety blogs at www.ktoc.net.

KANSAS TURNPIKE NEWS



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Do you know what to do in a roadside emergency?

The State Farm Safety Assist on the Kansas Turnpike is now complete for the year, having served KTA customers during the busiest summer and vacation months.

However, roadside dilemmas continue year-round. Safety Assist driver Ron Reavis, who drove nearly 10,000 miles this summer assisting motorists, has some tips for drivers who find themselves on the side of the road.

The best preventative measure is for drivers to “slow down and make sure their vehicle is in good mechanical condition,” Reavis said. Overall, he believes drivers have been cautious when they have had mechanical trouble.

Reavis said it was encouraging to see stranded motorists be safety conscious this past summer. He said that parents have done a good job of keeping children in the vehicle, reducing the vehicles exposure to traffic and turning on their four-way flashers to warn other drivers.

It is important that drivers prepare for emergency situations and the correct steps to take if an incident occurs.

One of the best things a driver can do is to prepare for the unforeseen. Keep flares, flashlights, blankets, water, a first aid kit and a mobile phone in the vehicle. Know where your spare tire, jack and other tools are and how to use them.

If your car breaks down, it is important not to leave your vehicle stopped in a traffic lane. Get off the road, if at all possible. Drivers should be especially careful at night when the risk of being hit from behind increases. Drivers should then turn on the emergency flashers and raise the vehicles hood to signal to other drivers they need help.

If you have a cell phone, call for help. However, if you do not, it is best to remain with your vehicle. If you must leave your vehicle leave a note with your name, phone number of a contact person, time of day you left and which direction you will be walking.

If you are involved in or witness an accident, stop the car immediately and call for help. Apply first aid to injured persons, but do not move them unless absolutely necessary.

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K-TAG KORNER

K-TAG program observes 15th year in operation

In the fall of 1995, testing of the new electronic toll collection program, K-TAG, began. Then, on October 25 — the 39th anniversary of the opening of the turnpike — a ribbon cutting ceremony was held and the program got its official start.

Today, there are approximately 120,000

accounts with more than 250,000 tags.

As a K-TAG customer, you can access account information via the web and receive a 5-25% discount on your tolls, depending on your vehicle and account type.

Thanks for being a K-TAG customer and for driving on the Kansas Turnpike!

On the move: Fall brings out more deer

Due to cooler weather, breeding habits and the beginning of hunting season, deer migration requires extra caution this time of year in Kansas.

But, no matter what the season, studies find that most deer/vehicle collisions occur at sunset or sunrise, as deer — mostly nocturnal creatures — are making their way to or from their destination.

If you hit a deer or have any other type of accident while driving on the Kansas Turnpike, contact KTA dispatch immediately. Highway Patrol assistance is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have a cellular phone, you can dial *KTA (*582) to reach the dispatch center. You can also call 1-800-827-PIKE (7453) from any phone.

Remember these tips to help avoid deer/vehicle

collisions:

- If you see a deer, slow down and consider that other deer may be nearby.
- Use special caution in areas where deer crossing signs are posted.
- Do not take unsafe evasive actions to avoid striking a deer. It is usually better to strike a deer than another vehicle or the median barrier.
- Scan the roadside and down the roadway.
- During nighttime hours, use your highbeams when no traffic is approaching. This may help you see the deer much sooner and allow you to react accordingly.
- Drive at a safe speed for road conditions.
- Stay alert and awake.

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Drivers of both vehicles should exchange the following information:

- Driver's license number
- Vehicle registration number
- Name
- Address
- Insurance company's name

- Insurance policy number

By law drivers must report to law enforcement any accident resulting in injury, death or property damage of more than \$500.

A Kansas Department of Transportation study recently

found that half of all crashes are caused by driver distractions like texting, eating or lighting cigarettes. The KTA encourages drivers to block out distractions so they arrive safely at their destinations.

-- Regan Johnston

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