

Q: How can I check current road conditions in?

A: The best way to check real-time road conditions, including construction, incidents, and winter weather, is to use the KDOT Traveler Information Map available on the official KDOT website. You can also call our toll-free number at 785-ASK-KDOT for automated road condition reports.

Q: Where do I renew my driver's license or vehicle registration?

A: Driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, and titles are handled by the Kansas Department of Revenue (DOR), not the Kansas Department of Transportation. Please visit a local DOR license office or their official website for assistance with licensing and vehicle services.

Q: How do I report a pothole or a broken sign?

A: You can report road maintenance issues directly to me. Please provide a clear description and specific location of the problem or by calling our 24/7 customer service line.

Q: What should I do if my car breaks down on the highway?

A: If your vehicle breaks down, your safety is the top priority. Pull over to the right shoulder as far as possible, turn on your emergency flashers, and stay inside your vehicle with your seatbelt on. If you must exit, do so on the side away from traffic. For assistance on a major highway, you can call *55 to reach the State Highway Patrol.

Q: What are the rules for driving through a work zone?

A: When approaching a work zone, please slow down, stay alert, and eliminate distractions. Law requires you to obey all posted signs and flaggers. Fines for speeding are significantly higher in work zones to protect our crews. Remember our motto: "Buckle Up, Phone Down." 💡

General Road Awareness & Rules

- **Q: What does a solid yellow line on your side of the road mean?** A: A solid yellow line on your side means you are not allowed to pass other vehicles.
- **Q: What is the "three-second rule" for following distance?** A: It's a guideline to maintain a safe distance. When the vehicle ahead of you passes a fixed object (like a sign), you should be able to count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three" before you pass the same object. You should increase this to 4-5 seconds in bad weather.
- **Q: At a four-way stop, who has the right-of-way if two cars arrive at the same time?** A: The vehicle to the right has the right-of-way.

Distracted Driving

- **Q: What are the three main categories of driver distraction?** A: **Manual** (taking your hands off the wheel), **Visual** (taking your eyes off the road), and **Cognitive** (taking your mind off driving).
- **Q: Why is texting while driving so dangerous?** A: It involves all three types of distraction at once, making it one of the riskiest behaviors behind the wheel.

Sharing the Road

- **Q: How much space should you leave when passing a bicyclist on the road?** A: You should leave at least three feet of space between your car and the bicyclist.
- **Q: What are the "No-Zones" on a large truck?** A: These are large blind spots located in the front, back, and on both sides of a truck where the driver cannot see smaller vehicles. It's crucial to avoid lingering in these areas.

Driving in Hazardous Conditions

- **Q: What is hydroplaning?** A: Hydroplaning occurs when a layer of water builds up between your tires and the road surface, causing a loss of traction. If it happens, you should ease your foot off the gas and steer straight until you regain control.
- **Q: When driving in fog, should you use your high-beam or low-beam headlights?** A: You should always use your **low-beam** headlights. High beams will reflect off the fog and create glare, making it even harder to see.

Vehicle Emergencies

- **Q: What should you do if your car's tire blows out while driving?** A: Grip the steering wheel firmly and keep the car moving straight. Do not slam on the brakes. Ease your foot off the accelerator and let the car slow down on its own. Once you have slowed to a safe speed, gently pull over to the side of the road.
- **Q: Your brakes fail while you're driving. What is the first thing you should try?** A: You should rapidly pump the brake pedal several times. This can often build up enough brake fluid pressure to stop the car. If that doesn't work, you can use your emergency brake or shift to a lower gear to help slow the vehicle down.
- **Q: What should you do if your car breaks down on a highway?** A: Immediately turn on your hazard lights. Try to pull over to the far-right shoulder, as far from traffic as possible. If you can't get off the main road, stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on and call for assistance. It is generally safer to remain in the car than to stand outside on a busy highway.

Driving Scenarios

- **Q: How should you navigate a multi-lane roundabout?** A: Yield to all traffic already inside the roundabout. Choose your lane before entering based on your exit. Generally, use the right lane to take the first or second exit and the left lane to take later exits or to go full circle. Signal your exit before you reach it.
- **Q: What is the correct procedure for merging onto a highway?** A: Use the entrance ramp to accelerate to the speed of highway traffic. Use your turn signal, find a safe gap in traffic, and merge smoothly. It is dangerous to slow down or stop on the ramp.

- **Q: What does a flashing yellow arrow at a traffic light mean?** A: A flashing yellow arrow means you are permitted to make a left turn, but you must first yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Your turn is unprotected.

Child Safety

- **Q: Why is it important for a child to use a booster seat even if they have outgrown a car seat?** A: A booster seat raises the child up so that the vehicle's adult seat belt fits them correctly across the strong parts of their body—the chest and hips. Without one, the seat belt could ride up on their stomach and neck, causing serious injury in a crash.
- **Q: At what age is it recommended for a child to ride in the front seat?** A: It is safest for children to ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old. The force of a deploying front airbag can cause serious or fatal injuries to a small child.

Drowsy Driving

- **Q: What are the primary warning signs of drowsy driving?** A: Common signs include frequent yawning, difficulty keeping your eyes open, "zoning out" or missing your exit, drifting out of your lane, and hitting a rumble strip.
- **Q: Are opening a window or turning up the radio effective ways to combat drowsy driving?** A: No. These are temporary fixes that do not address the underlying fatigue. The only true remedy for drowsy driving is to pull over to a safe place, like a rest stop, and get some sleep.