

Cone zone



Since the arrival of warm weather road work has started in earnest. Pictured above is the work the Kansas Department of Transportation project between Brewster and Edson. Drivers need to be aware of the lower speed limits in the construction zones.
Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Kansas Highway Patrol Troopers to ride with drivers

The Trucks on Patrol for Safety (TOPS) program conducted by Kansas Highway Patrol, and supported by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is in the midst of its sixth annual deployment. The program has been traveling across the state since early April. This week the program will travel Troop D, the northwest Kansas region. The TOPS program pairs companies and drivers that operate large trucks with the Patrol in an effort to reduce injuries and deaths related to large truck crashes on Kansas' roadways.

TOPS provides troopers an opportunity to ride with professional semi truck drivers. The troopers onboard the large trucks have

a front seat view to witness, document, and report violations to other troopers on patrol in the immediate area. Through the FMCSA grant-funded TOPS program, troopers enforce state laws and federal regulations in and around large trucks, as well as educate the motoring public of the dangers that exist around semis.

The trucks, trailers, and drivers that the Patrol uses for the program are donated by the industry. The companies partner with the Patrol for a week in a specific region of the state to make these resources available. This week the State of Kansas provided a driver for the TOPS program.

As with all law enforcement agencies,

the Kansas Highway Patrol is committed to serving the public, increasing productivity, and promoting safety for all motorists. The Patrol offers the following safety tips when traveling around large trucks:

- Stay out of trucks' blind spots-areas directly behind, and on both sides of the truck where the driver cannot see cars. If you can't see the driver's side view mirrors, you're in a blind spot and the driver can't see you. If your car is beside a large truck, either drive on past or back off. If passing, drive your car on the left side where the blind spot is smaller.
- Never follow a large truck too closely. Stay behind large trucks by at least one car

length for every 10 miles per hour of speed. Providing extra distance allows you to see in front of the truck. If there is congested traffic or a crash ahead of you, you will see it in time to stop or safely steer your car away from the danger.

- Use extra caution when passing a large truck. After you pass a large truck, do not pull your car back into its traffic lane until you see its headlights in your rearview mirror. Leaving this extra distance gives the truck driver time to slow down or stop if something is happening on the highway ahead.
- Always remember that a loaded tractor-trailer or semi truck needs as much as 100

yards - the length of a football field - to come to a complete stop. No matter how crowded the highway, make sure to maintain this safe distance. If the truck driver ignores this margin of safety and follows your car too closely, do not take a chance. Move your car into another traffic lane.

• Always use your turn signal when changing lanes. Drivers around you need to know what you are doing so they can maintain a safe driving distance.

• Always use seatbelts and child safety seats when appropriate. This is your best defense against injury and death should you become involved in a motor vehicle crash.

New recruits to start schooling in January

The Kansas Highway Patrol is excited to announce that we are going to be hiring a new class of recruit troopers, who will be set to begin their careers with the Patrol this coming January. This will be the 52nd KHP recruit class, and marks the Patrol's effort to increase manpower on the highways in Kansas, as well as provide assistance to some local agencies who rely on the Patrol's assistance.

"The Kansas Highway Patrol is very excited to have this opportunity to start its third class in a year-and-a-half. With the additional state troopers Recruit Class No. 52 will provide, it enhances our ability to better serve the citizens of Kansas," Lt. Joshua Kellerman, KHP Public Information Officer, said.

Applications are being accepted now through Friday, June 29. Applicants will go through an extensive hiring process, which will include a written examination, physical agility test, polygraph exam, background investigation,

interview, physical examination, and psychiatric test. Upon successful completion of these steps, final offers of employment will be made. The recruits will report to the Training Academy on January 3, 2013 to begin 22 weeks of training. The hiring process has been condensed to a more timely process for applicants, and to increase the Patrol's ability to fulfill our mission by providing additional troopers on the road during a time when they are much needed. Applicants will go through a six month hiring process, rather than the yearlong process that was in place previously.

With retirements, promotions, and short-staffing in many areas of the state, these new troopers will come at a welcome time. The Patrol prides itself in the assistance we offer to local agencies. Hiring additional troopers will not only enhance our ability to assist other agencies, but provide much needed law enforcement coverage throughout the state that Kansas residents

and travelers through our state have come to rely on.

TO APPLY for KHP Class #52: Please promptly submit a tax clearance certificate by accessing the Dept. of Revenue website www.ksrevenue.org/taxclearance.html, along with an Employment Application at www.jobs.ks.gov. This application site can also be accessed from the www.kansashighwaypatrol.org website: click on Career Opportunities, Current Openings,

Apply Online. If you mail hard copy application and tax clearance materials, they must be post marked no later than June 29, 2012 and addressed to: Janice Kelly, c/o KHP Recruiting, 122 SW 7th Street, Topeka, KS 66603 (785-296-8091). ADA/EOE/VPE. If you have further questions on the hiring process or what the Trooper position entails, please visit: www.kansashighwaypatrol.org/careerop/co_trooper.html, or call (785) 296-6800.

Fort Larned historic site to offer eclipse viewing

On Sunday, you are invited to view a partial solar eclipse from Fort Larned National Historic Site. Fort Larned is one of 125 national parks that will have an outstanding view of the eclipse. Come out to see this rare and wonderful phenomenon at the fort! Program time begins at 6 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the Visitor Center. The eclipse occurs from 6:25 to sunset at 7:47. An interpretive program on Indian tales of the night sky will immediately follow the sunset. As darkness sets in visitors will be invited to stay for a stargazing

program. Two telescopes will be set up by the fort's park rangers. The program will conclude after stars have been visible and all participants have enjoyed viewing the night sky.

Safety must be an important part of viewing a solar eclipse. Don't forget the motto, "never look directly at the sun"; this event requires eye protection to observe. Park rangers will have fabricated projection devices. A short safety message will be conveyed during the introduction. We hope you can join us for this rare treat! Imag-

ine it - you'll be standing in the footsteps of ancient peoples who have marked these events for over 1,000 years!

Fort Larned National Historic Site is located six miles west of Larned on Kansas Highway 156. Information on visiting is on the internet at www.nps.gov/fols, or by calling (620) 285-6911, or email to fols_superintendent@nps.gov. For information on area tourism partners, lodging, dining, and community services go to www.larnedks.org or call (620) 285-6916.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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