

JAN/FEB 2009

Don't call us,  
we'll ... uh...  
**text you**

## KTA to implement emergency text messaging services

The Kansas Turnpike Authority will soon begin providing an additional way to communicate emergency situations to turnpike travelers: text message alerts.

Text messages from the KTA will be of an emergency nature, such as roadway blockages, severe inclement weather directly affecting travel, and Amber Alerts.

"We've been looking at proactive ways to communicate with customers," said Director of Public Relations Lisa Callahan.

"Our dispatch center receives numerous non-emergency inquiries. We try to answer every call to the best of our ability but we really want to reduce the number of calls so we can better assist those with emergencies," said Troop G Commander Capt. John Walters.

One example of when this system might be used is during severe winter storms like the one prior to the 2007 Christmas holiday. The KTA believes the system will be especially helpful to keep customers informed of ever-changing circumstances.

"We want everyone to be able to make the best travel decisions possible and that means providing more information," Walters said.

**Go to KTA's web site to sign up for this free service!**

# NEWS

KANSAS TURNPIKE

Website: [www.ksturnpike.com](http://www.ksturnpike.com)

e-mail: [kta-pr@ksturnpike.com](mailto:kta-pr@ksturnpike.com)

## Be prepared for winter driving

Although some are predicting that temperatures will be above average this winter, precipitation is also expected to increase this year.

For roadway and weather information in the state of Kansas, dial 511 or visit <http://511.ksdot.org>.

Information about emergency situations is also available on the Highway Advisory Radio found at 1610 AM while traveling on the Turnpike.

To help you stay safe while traveling in the winter months, prepare your vehicle and yourself prior to hitting the road.

Remember these tips during inclement winter weather:

- Pack an emergency kit in case you get stranded. Include an ice scraper, small shovel, gravel for traction, a blanket, first aid kit, and a flashlight.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights—even the hood and roof—before driving.

- Give snow plows and other maintenance vehicles plenty of clearance.
- Drive at a speed that will allow you to safely stop should you need to apply the brakes quickly.
- Turn off your cruise control.
- Turn your headlights on to allow other drivers to see you easily. According to Kansas law, if your windshield wipers are in use, you must also have your headlights on!
- If driving with four-wheel drive, remember that it helps you go, but won't help you stop.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you are in an accident and need assistance, knowing what road you are on, what milepost you are closest to or some type of easily identifiable landmark can help emergency responders locate you.
- Keep your gas tank full.

# New phones change use of emergency phone numbers

With the prevalence of “smart” phones and “QWERTY” keyboards on phones, numbers like the Turnpike’s emergency number — \* KTA — are no longer easily identified and dialed on all phones.

QWERTY keyboards do not assign the traditional three letters per number, making e-mailing and text messaging easier for the user. However, if someone tried to dial \*KTA using a phone with a QWERTY keyboard, the call could

not be completed. Because of this, all the acronym numbers in the list below are actual numbers rather than letters. For example, \*KTA is listed as \*582.

*QWERTY is the most used modern-day keyboard layout on English-language computer and typewriter keyboards. It takes its name from the first six characters seen in the far left of the keyboard's top row of letters.*

If you are planning to travel to other states, here are some handy numbers you can call from your mobile phone to report emergency situations such as an accident, erratic driver, disabled vehicle, or hazardous objects in the roadway.

State	Number
Alabama	334-242-4378, *47
Alaska	911
Arizona	911
Arkansas	501-295-1860, (911)
California	911
Colorado	*277
Connecticut	800-443-6817, 911
Delaware	#77, 911
Florida	*347, *384, 800-525-5555
Georgia	*477
Idaho	911, *477
Illinois	511,*77, *99 (Chicago area)
Indiana	911
Iowa	*55, 911, 800-555-4357
Kansas	*47
Kansas Turnpike	*582, 800-827-7453
Kentucky	800-222-5555, 911
Louisiana	504-893-6250, *47
Maine	*77
Maryland	#77
Massachusetts	*77
Michigan	911
Minnesota	*911
Mississippi	601-864-1314, *47
Missouri	800-525-5555, *55

State	Number
Montana	800-525-5555, 911
Nebraska	800-525-5555, *77
Nevada	*647, *384, 911
New Hampshire	*77, 911
New Jersey	1-800-723-7623, 911
New Mexico	505-827-9301
New York	*394, 911
North Carolina	*47, 800-662-7956
North Dakota	911, 800-472-2121
Ohio	*384, 800-525-5555
Oklahoma	*55
Oregon	911
Pennsylvania	*911
Rhode Island	800-499-3784, 401-444-1969, *77
South Carolina	*47
South Dakota	911
Tennessee	*847, 607-741-2060
Texas	911, 800-525-5555
Utah	911
Vermont	802-244-8727, *394
Virginia	#77, 911
Washington	911, 360-438-7700
West Virginia	#77
Wisconsin	911
Wyoming	#4357, 911, 800-442-9090

These phone numbers were found on various web sites. The Kansas Turnpike Authority, while printing these numbers in good faith, makes no guarantee as to the accuracy.