

Kansas sets lowest fatality rate in history

Reports for all highways and roads across Kansas indicate 384 traffic fatalities for 2008, down from 416 in 2007, which would set an all-time low for the state. Ten people lost their lives on the Turnpike in 2008. Of those, five were not wearing safety belts.

Still, traffic safety and law enforcement officials are not satisfied.

“It’s good, but not good enough,” said Capt. John Walters, Commander of Troop G assigned to the Turnpike. “We won’t be satisfied until our safety belt compliance rate is 100 percent and deaths attributed to failure to buckle up are eliminated.”

The decline in overall fatalities may be due to several factors, including legislation addressing child passenger safety and a primary seat belt law for teens, tougher DUI penalties and increased efforts to raise motorcycle safety awareness. The latest Kansas Seat Belt Usage Observational Survey showed safety belt use is at 77.3 percent in the state, an increase over previous years.

Sign up for KTA Text Alerts at 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.

NEWS

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Stick it!

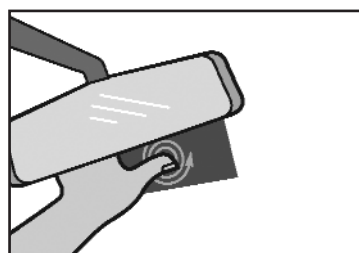
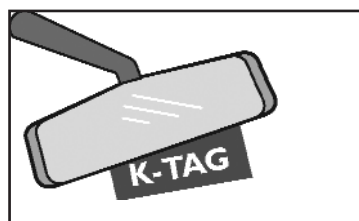
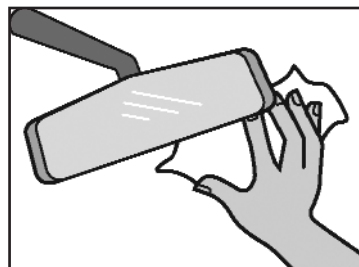
New K-TAG sticker tags must be mounted to windshield

In December, the Kansas Turnpike Authority began issuing a new type of K-TAG for new customers.

The new tag design will eventually replace an older tag style similar to a bar of soap. Unlike the “first generation” style of tags, the sticker tag will not work at all unless it is fully

adhered to the windshield. It uses the glass as an antenna to communicate with a reader as drivers pass through the lanes at toll plazas; and holding the tag up does not work because the body interferes with the signal.

Below are instructions on mounting your sticker tag.



1. Clean and dry the inside of your windshield.

2. Your K-TAG goes on the inside of your windshield behind the rearview mirror.

3. Peel off the clear backing on the gray side of the K-TAG and adhere your sticker tag to the windshield by rubbing the tag into place using a circular motion. This will help the tag stick properly.

K-TAG KORNER

Need account information? Here's how to reach us:

Find your account information online at www.myktag.com or www.ksturnpike.com. You can view statements, pay a bill and replenish your K-TAG account from this site.

Registering is easy if you haven't already done so! You will need your account number and the zip code of your

billing address to get started.

If you need additional assistance, contact a customer service representative.

E-mail: ktag@ksturnpike.com

Phone: 1-800-873-5824 or 316-652-2650

Our interactive voice response system can help walk you through your account information 24 hours a day.

Construction begins on new c-store at Lawrence Service Area



The EZ GO fuel retailer/C-store at the Lawrence Service Area at milepost 209 on the Kansas Turnpike closed in early January for reconstruction. No fuel is available at that location.

The McDonald's restaurant remains open for business as usual.

The new EZ GO store will feature more fuel pumps; a larger, more modern store; additional product space; and larger restrooms. The new facility will be very similar to the EZ GO store recently built at the Belle Plaine Service Area at milepost 26. To view more photos of that store, visit www.flickr.com/photos/ksturnpike.

Construction should be complete by mid-summer.

Top: Demolition of the fuel retailer/c-store is complete and makes room for construction to begin on the new facility.

Right: The coffee bar at the Belle Plaine EZ GO offers travelers more choices.



Springtime brings new challenges for drivers. Be aware of rain-slickened roadways; deer movements, especially in the dusk and dawn hours; and range burning, especially in the Flint Hills.

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