

Northwest District Office  
312 S. Second  
Norton, KS 67654-0350



phone: 785-877-3315  
fax: 785-877-2531  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)

Julie Lorenz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 10, 2021

**News Contact:** Lisa Mussman, 785-874-8107, [lisa.mussman@ks.gov](mailto:lisa.mussman@ks.gov)

# **Staffing shortages could impact KDOT winter operations in northwest Kansas**

Kansas Department of Transportation offices in northwest Kansas are committed to keeping the highways cleared whenever inclement weather occurs.

In line with workforce shortages across the nation, KDOT does not have enough equipment operators – the agency’s primary snowplow operators – in several areas across Kansas. These shortages create the potential for highways to not be cleared of snow and ice as quickly as in the past.

The agency has dealt with reduced staffing in the past, but the shortages are greater this year. KDOT offices in northwest Kansas are about 39% short of snowplow operators needed to be fully staffed, with a 30% shortage of needed equipment operators statewide.

“KDOT is facing significant staffing shortages in some areas and will work proactively to clear Kansas highways by shifting crews to affected areas and pretreating highways and bridges whenever possible,” said Secretary Julie Lorenz. “Our snowplow operators work 12-hour shifts and do their best to keep the roads open and the public moving.”

To help address the shortage, the agency will deploy all employees who have a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) to plow snow and hire seasonal workers. For people interested in working at KDOT, go to the state’s employment website at <https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/Vacancy/Vacancy.aspx>. KDOT will assist selected applicants in obtaining a CDL upon hiring, including paying for training.

“It will be more of a challenge for our crews in northwest Kansas to keep that same level of service this winter,” said District Engineer Jeff Stewart. “We encourage motorists to be aware before and during winter storms and possibly alter or delay travel plans if necessary.”

Before traveling, motorists can check [www.KanDrive.org](http://www.KanDrive.org), KDOT's road/weather condition website. It is updated 24/7 for highway conditions, overall weather information, short-term closures and general alerts.

###

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the KDOT Office of Public Affairs, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 Voice/Hearing Impaired – 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:

