

Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603



phone: 785-296-3585
fax: 785-296-0287
www.ksdot.org

Richard Carlson, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2017

For more information:

Brianna Landon or Kim Stich
785.296.3585
KDOT.Media@ksgov

Real people, real experiences: Watch out for highway workers in construction zones

Topeka – It was a normal work day. Kansas Department of Transportation employee Galen Ludlow was helping to set up cones and an arrow board in a work zone on I-70. In an instant, the situation turned dangerous.

“My coworker yelled look out and as I looked up, there was a car headed straight for us,” Ludlow said. “I jumped over the tongue of the trailer and we ran for the median. He never stopped. After taking a few minutes to catch our breath, we continued with our job.”

Ludlow has witnessed many near misses during his 34-year KDOT career. He now serves as the Area Superintendent in Dodge City, working with 40 employees who serve at various offices in the region. Their well-being is a concern, Ludlow said.

“I want them to be able to go home every night, safe and sound,” he said.

Ludlow was one of the speakers at today’s statewide safety event in Topeka. He was joined by State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick, Superintendent Col. Mark Bruce, KDOT employee Troy Whitworth and Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator Rick Backlund.

The event is one of several activities in Kansas as part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 3-7, which raises awareness of the dangers highway workers and motorists face in work zones. Highway workers and others are sharing stories this week in a blog series about work zone safety that can be read at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>. Electronic message boards along the highways will also have rotating work zone safety messages.

Buildings and structures across Kansas will be lit up in orange all week to highlight work zone safety. Check out the Governor’s Mansion, the Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison, the Visitor’s Center in the Capitol, the Eisenhower State Office Building in Topeka, the 87th Street bridges

over I-35 in Lenexa, the front of the Topeka City Hall and KDOT offices in Topeka, Salina, Norton, Chanute, Hutchinson and Garden City.

Last year in Kansas work zones, 683 people were injured and six people were killed. When traveling through a work zone, motorists should:

- Follow traffic control
- Stay alert
- Watch for workers
- Expect delays
- Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you
- Change lanes when directed to do so

###

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., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:

