



May is Motorcyclist Safety Month

Motorcyclist safety is everyone's responsibility.

The end of May ushers in the unofficial start of the summer road travel season. Safe driving and riding practices for all road users — drivers and riders alike — are critical to help reduce motorcycle/vehicle crashes.

"Everyone on the road has a role to play in reducing motorcycle fatalities. Vehicle drivers and motorcyclists need to share the road and treat each

other with respect and courtesy," said Robyn Meinholdt, KDOT Behavior Safety Coordinator. "Drivers need to look twice for bikes. Motorcyclists can help improve their own safety and visibility with protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet."

A total of 726 people were injured in the 814 crashes involving a motorcycle in Kansas in 2022, according to current KDOT data. In addition, 47 of those crashes were fatal, with 50 people losing their lives.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speeding and alcohol impairment play significant roles in motorcycle-involved crash fatalities across the nation.

"Traffic safety is critical to all motorists, including those driving motorcycles," Meinholdt said. "It doesn't matter if you are traveling in a vehicle or on a motorcycle, all drivers need to follow posted speed limits and not drive if impaired. It can be the difference between life and death."



Motorcyclists are encouraged to complete a rider education and training course to learn more ways to increase safety for everyone on the roadways.

Tips for Motorcyclists

- Observe all traffic laws and always obey the speed limit.
- Wear personal protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet with a “FMVSS No. 218 Certified” label. [Learn how to identify a safe, DOT-compliant helmet at www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet.](https://www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet)
- Never ride while impaired or distracted — it is not worth the risk of killing or injuring yourself or someone else. A DUI costs \$10,000 on average, and can lead to jail time, loss of your operator’s license, and higher insurance rates.
- Take rider education courses and ride with a current motorcycle license. In 2020, 36% of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were riding without valid motorcycle licenses.
- Obey the speed limit. Thirty-four percent of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2020 were speeding. Motorcycle riders 25 to 29 years old involved in fatal crashes had the highest speeding involvement at 45%.

Tips for Motorists

- Yield to motorcyclists, especially while turning at intersections.
- When driving, avoid distractions that place motorcyclists and other road users at risk.
- Remember, motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles and difficult to see. Their size can also cause other drivers to misjudge their speed and distance.
- Though a motorcycle is a small vehicle, its operator still has the same rights of the road as any other motorist. Allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Always use a turn signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Allow more following distance — beyond three to four seconds — when behind a motorcycle. This gives them more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.



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Help Avoid Child Heatstroke: *Park. Look. Lock.*



As temperatures rise, so does the risk of vehicular, heat-related illnesses and deaths in children.

Before walking away after parking a vehicle, drivers should look in the back of their car and lock the doors.

Vehicle heatstroke is one of the leading causes of traffic-related death for children in the United States. More than half (53%) of all vehicle-related heatstroke deaths in children are caused by a child accidentally being left in the car, and 26% are from a child getting into a hot car unsupervised.

Teach children that the vehicle is not a playground and that playing in and around the car is very dangerous.

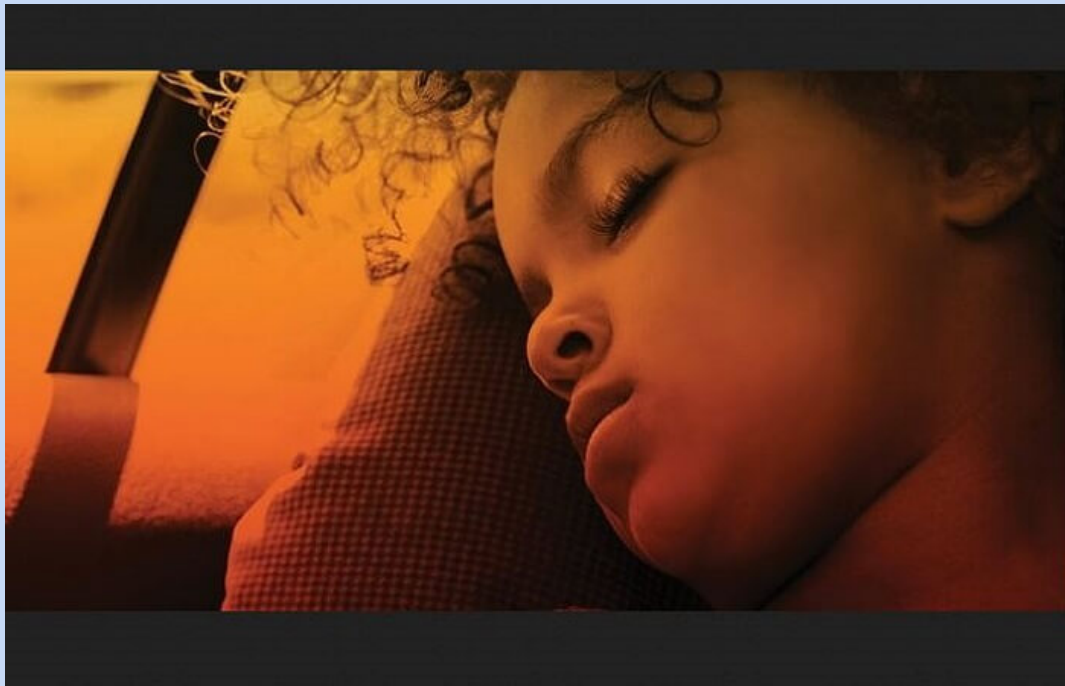
The bottom line is this: We are all susceptible to forgetfulness. We live in a fast-paced society, and our routines are often upended at a moment's notice. It is during these moments of hurriedness and change in routine that many of these preventable tragedies occur.

If you are a bystander and see a child in a hot vehicle:

- **Make sure the child is okay and responsive. If not, call 911 immediately.**
- **If the child appears to be okay, attempt to locate the parents. If there is someone with you, one person should actively search for the parent while the other waits at the car.**
- **If the child is not responsive or appears to be in distress, attempt to get into the car to assist the child — even if that means breaking a window.**

Knowing the warning signs of heatstroke, which include red, hot, and moist or dry skin; no sweating; a strong rapid or a slow weak pulse; nausea; or confusion is also key. If a child exhibits any of these signs after being in a hot vehicle, quickly spray the child with cool water or with a garden hose — but never in an ice bath. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

**Click Here for Resources for Employers -
Child Vehicular Heatstroke Prevention**



We Can Prevent Hot Car Deaths - National Safety Council

“This topic should concern everyone, even individuals without children of their own. If you live in a neighborhood with children, it is important to lock unattended vehicles so children cannot gain access. If you work with colleagues that have children, it is important to be attentive in parking lots at work and shopping locations. According to NoHeatstroke.org, about [24%](#) of all pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths have occurred at the caregivers’ place of work.”

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Traffic Safety Minute Resources for Staff Meetings

Sometimes, children are left intentionally by parents who do not understand the dangers of a hot vehicle, or who may not understand how quickly a vehicle can heat up to dangerous temperatures. It cannot be overstated: Never leave your child in a vehicle alone, not even for a minute.

A busy parent or caregiver may unintentionally forget that a rear-facing quiet or sleeping child is in the back of the vehicle. This most often occurs with children under one year of age. Always remember to look before you lock. You could save a life.

Some children gain access into a vehicle without the knowledge of an adult and may be unable to get out of the car, especially if child locks are activated. It is essential to teach children that it is dangerous to play in or around the car. Parents should get into the habit of storing keys and fobs out of a child's reach.

If you are a bystander and see a child in a hot vehicle:

- Make sure the child is okay and responsive. If not, call 911 immediately.

- If the child appears to be okay, attempt to locate the parents or have the facility's security or management page the car owner over the PA system.
- If there is someone with you, one person should actively search for the parent while the other waits at the car.
- If the child is not responsive or appears to be in distress, attempt to get into the car to assist the child — even if that means breaking a window. Kansas has a "Good Samaritan" law that protects people from lawsuits for getting involved to help a person in an emergency.

[Click Here For More Resources](#)

Hosting a Health and Safety Fair? We'd love to be involved!

The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office offers you **FREE** traffic safety brochures, posters, flyers, and giveaway items.

PLUS, our website gives you information on traffic safety topics like teen drivers, distracted driving, drunk driving, motorcycle safety, and more!



We can bring **FREE** safe driving programs directly to your community organization or workplace.

From car seats to how getting older affects your driving, we provide help and advice for on how to stay safe on the roads.

[Visit Our Website - ktsro.org](http://ktsro.org)

[CLICK HERE To Download Drive Better ICT Materials](#)

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Traffic Safety On The Job

Buckled Up in a Car Seat

To be featured in our newsletter, send your pictures to pmiddleton@dccca.org or tag [@DriveSafeKansas](https://www.instagram.com/DriveSafeKansas) when posting it on social media.

Driver Safety Programs

Drivers Education Schools in Kansas

Employer-Based Driver Safety Programs

The TRB Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program's BTSCRIP WebResource 1: Employer-Based Driver Safety Programs is based on an assessment of what elements in employer-based traffic safety programs and other behavior change programs are likely to change driver behavior and workplace safety culture.

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Online Defensive Driving Courses - National Safety Council

NSC Defensive Driving Online Courses deliver the most relevant, leading-edge content to motivate and educate employees to be safe, responsible drivers. You can trust NSC to best train drivers to avoid collisions, crashes, injuries or worse.

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