

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2024

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Speeding can be costly, wreck lives

TOPEKA – The chance of death or serious injury doubles for every 10 mph over 50 mph a vehicle travels, and speeding is a factor in almost one-third of all traffic fatalities nationwide.

These facts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show why the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Drive To Zero Coalition and law enforcement agencies across the state are working together to increase awareness that “Speeding Wrecks Lives.”

Beginning July 22 and running through Aug. 11, motorists can expect increased safety messaging as well as increased enforcement for speeding to urge drivers to obey posted speed limits and help reduce crashes and fatalities.

“These enhanced safety efforts are about saving lives,” said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. “Drivers should follow the posted speed limits to reduce risk to themselves, occupants in their car and those around them. Speeding catches up with you.”

In 2023 in Kansas, 79 people lost their lives in speed-related crashes, which is a reduction from 2022. However, the 2,085 people who were seriously injured in speed-related crashes in 2023 was an increase from the previous year.

It takes about 221 feet to stop a vehicle traveling 50 mph. Increase the vehicle speed to 80 mph, and it takes about 460 feet to stop, according to NHTSA.

“With more space needed to stop and less time to respond, the chances of a crash and crash severity while speeding are greatly increased,” said Herman. “Drivers offer various excuses for speeding, but there is no good excuse.”

Compounded crash risks when speeding include:

- Increased chance of losing control of the vehicle.
- Reduced effectiveness of seat belts and child safety seats.
- Increased stopping distance needed.

- Increases chance for serious injury or fatality due to speed and mass impact.
- Increases fuel consumption and vehicle costs for the driver.

For more information on the risks of speeding, go to
<https://www.traffisafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/speeding>.

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700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3745 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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