

# TRAFFIC ALERT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2014

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### I-70 from Gage Boulevard to MacVicar Avenue

**Weather permitting, on Monday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m.**, a controlled agricultural burn is scheduled for the 30-acre plus site at the Kanza Education and Science Park located along the south side of I-70 between Gage Boulevard and MacVicar Avenue exits in Topeka (Shawnee County).

Eastbound and westbound I-70 traffic from Gage Boulevard to MacVicar Avenue may be impacted by smoke blowing across the highway through the burn area. Advance message boards will alert I-70 traffic to the planned burn.

This planned burn is **weather permitting**, so if the weather forecast changes, the burn date/time may be rescheduled. We will let you know if the date/time changes in advance, as weather permits.



Why is the agricultural burn taking place? The burn is needed to establish native ground for educational purposes to complement the Kanza Educational Science Park. Tallgrass Prairie is the most endangered ecosystem in North America and Kansas is home to the largest remaining tracts. Grassland birds that rely on tallgrass prairie continue to decline range-wide. This 30-acre tract likely was once tallgrass prairie and is now primarily

introduced cool season grasses that provide limited habitat for native Kansas wildlife. Topeka USD 501 and surrounding schools will have a unique opportunity to contribute to the restoration of this grassland and get hands-on experience and education on grassland ecology.

This agricultural burn will be conducted by the Westar Green Team with the Topeka Fire Department assisting as part of an educational and training activity.

Participating agencies include:

- Westar Green Team
- Topeka Fire Department
- Topeka USD 501
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Kansas Highway Patrol

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This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

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