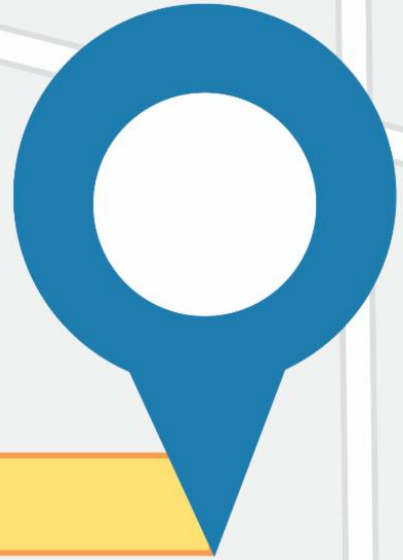


Friday April 17, 2020

EN ROUTE TO **FRIDAY**



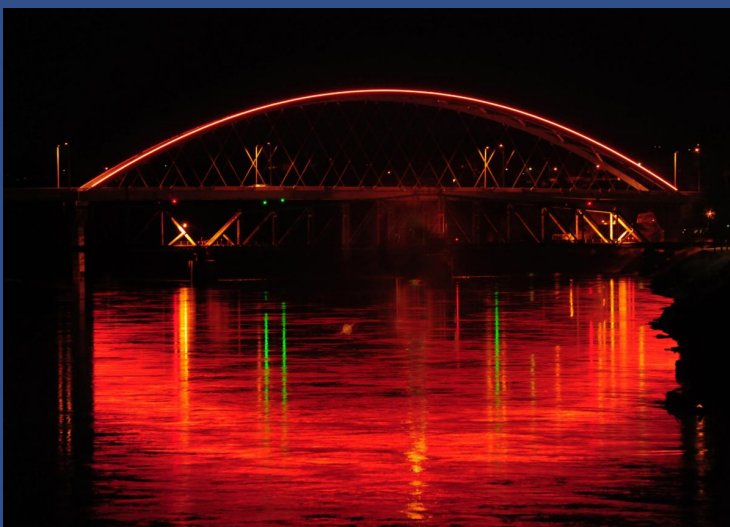
HAPPY FRIDAY!

**National Work Zone Awareness Week
begins Monday**



National Work Zone Awareness Week

Go Orange at www.ksdot.org



With construction projects continuing in Kansas, KDOT plans to participate in the **National Work Zone Awareness Week** campaign next week, April 20-24.

Because of COVID-19, some activities will be moved to later this year,

but it's important to do what we can now to raise awareness. Emails will be sent each day with information about the safety campaign.

Please check the KDOT Transportation blog each day next week for stories written by KDOT and KTA workers as well as a Kansas contractor who help show why work zone safety is so important -

<http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

Pictured above: The Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison will be lit in orange for two weeks this year to highlight work zone safety.

One experience: How anything can happen in a work zone

By Tim Potter, Public Affairs Manager, District Five

Over the years, while monitoring KDOT work zones, Lloyd Mullins had repositioned a downed traffic channelizer many times.

Nothing went wrong -- until one night in July 2016.

The incident showed that in a work zone, anything can happen.

Mullins was an Engineering Technician Senior from the District Five shop at 45th and Hillside in Wichita. That night, he was in a work zone at the Woodlawn entrance ramp to Kellogg (U.S. 54) when he spotted a channelizer knocked over next to traffic. He was wearing his reflective clothing and hard hat when he reached out to grab the channelizer base from a closed lane in the work zone.



Before he bent over, no traffic was moving. Suddenly, he recalls, a car began to merge into the open lane next to him.

“A glancing blow hit my hard hat.”

It knocked the hard hat off his head, sent it flying across the pavement. The blow – apparently from the passenger-side car mirror -- stunned Mullins. He remembers standing up and walking over to his truck, “trying to get the wits about me.”

The woman driving the car stopped, asked if he was OK and apologized. “And I said I was fine,” he says. Someone called for help. EMS arrived, checked him out and insisted that he go to the emergency room. An exam found no injuries, and he returned to work within a couple hours.

Mullins knows he was lucky. He got hit even when he thought he was being careful.

“I wasn’t just intently sticking my hard hat out there to get hit,” he says. “I think she (the driver) was more watching the traffic coming over the road” than noticing him.

At the time of the accident, he had been working for KDOT for about 11 years. He does temporary work for KDOT now. He says the accident four years ago has made him more cautious.

With work zones getting busier, Mullins agrees that his experience might be worth sharing.

District One Public Affairs Manager Kelly Kultala interviewed about work zone safety

Click this [link](#) to listen to KDOT's Kelly Kultala and the Kansas Highway Patrol's Don Hughes discussing the importance of work zone safety on KWLN radio.

A different way to work: How KDOT employees are working during COVID-19

In just a matter of weeks our world has changed in many ways. A second set of stories about KDOT employees adjusting to new ways of working are below.

Supportive family helps new work environment

By Priscilla Petersen, Public Affairs Manager, District Four

Angie Jack finds remote work “not bad ... just really strange.”

“I have decent internet and no little kids – that helps,” she added.

Jack and her husband Robert, who is retired from KDOT, live on a farm along K-39 east of Chanute. As the Accountant in District Four’s fiscal department, she said that it hasn’t been too difficult to establish a work routine away from the office.

“The main challenge has been having the paperwork I need” to continue reviewing and researching district financial reports, according to Jack, although she and other staff members “are working around it.”



The Jacks have three adult sons, two of whom live at home. She said that her

family has been very supportive of the changed environment. Her favorite aspect of working from her farm is “just being here and able to eat out less ... and being home with the dogs, as they have loved it.”

Her least favorite part is when she needs something that is still back at the office. “I do miss being in the office,” Jack concluded. “I really miss the people!”

Taking it one day at a time

By Kelly Kultala, Public Affairs Specialist, District One



Stacie Cook is a District One, Area Three Engineering Technician in Bonner Springs and she has been out in the field working on job sites, when necessary, during the COVID-19 crisis. Cook normally works by herself, so social distancing isn't anything new.

However, during the past couple of weeks there has been a heightened sense of awareness about keeping things sanitary. The crew went into the office and disinfected everything, including light switches, as a preventative measure.

“It was just one more thing to worry about,” she said.

The contractors that she works with are doing their best to be careful and follow social distancing guidelines. Cook also said that it is very quiet in the office and while out on job sites her coworkers are taking it one

day at a time.

Everyone is “pretty stressed, not just about work stuff, but also about all COVID-19 related issues,” Cook said.

She noted that one positive has been that when she developed a leak in the tire on her work truck, when she got back to the office parking lot she had plenty of trucks to choose from.

“I could choose a different truck for each day of the week,” Cook joked.

Meyer adjusts to the new normal

By Lisa Knoll, Public Affairs Manager, District Six

Larry Meyer, District Six Construction Manager, is used to working from home. After all, he worked from home for six weeks last year after breaking his right

ankle. But that was different.

Last year, he was non-weight bearing and under constant supervision of his wife (a registered nurse), his daughter, her husband and three children. He was still “boots on the ground” as two construction offices were still fully operational and reporting to him. He could still get everything done that he needed to. His family was busy with school, sports and social activities.

Today, he is fully mobile. His previously-mentioned family, plus an adult son, are home with him in the family’s five bedroom/one bath home. Two bathrooms are caught in the re-model process.

Most would lament the crowded home, sharing one bathroom, or the slow or interrupted internet connection. Not Meyer. After almost 40 years with KDOT, he says the only thing missing is his KDOT family. As a “boots on the ground” southwest Kansas native, the best he can do is show up (at home, of course), do what needs to be done and shut down for the day.

With the stay at home order, schools going online, no school, sports or social activities and his wife serving as an RN, Meyer admits this is the new normal. But he says they are doing their best to adapt in a small rural community where the challenges are getting a fishing license offline and being able to purchase toilet paper and beef.



Constantly on the go

By Ashley Perez, Public Affairs Manager, District Two

While many employees have changed their work routine and now have a limited schedule, the workload is increasing for others. This is the case for Katie Lilly, Engineering Associate in Junction City, as she carries her hand sanitizer with her to the next job site.

Lilly mostly works out of her work truck, staying busy as construction projects begin in full swing (using modified practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19).

While learning to do more with less,



she faces new challenges such as not being able to get information as quickly as needed. With the lack of support staff, project files such as mix designs, material certification, test reports and others are inaccessible if they haven't been electronically saved. Lilly works all day to get critical items inspected and coordinates with contractors and others on her team.

Staying in constant contact with contractors is important, as schedules can change daily. After coordinating with contractors in her area, it may be determined that she needs to be out on a project when it begins. This requires Lilly to get up extra early so she can go to the office before heading out to inspect

concrete or asphalt.

"I worked from home before coming to KDOT so it's normal for me and I'm used to being constantly on the go," says Lilly.

Field work continues during virus outbreak

By Tracy Crockett, Wichita Public Affairs Specialist

While many are working from home during this public health emergency, other KDOT employees continue to work out in the field.

Engineer Technician Will Flug says he hasn't noticed too many changes to his everyday routine. Flug is working on the [Green Project](#) at I-235 and Broadway in Wichita, a project that involves building bridges and paving the shoulder on ramps.

However, he has noticed lighter traffic in the morning. They're also not seeing as many inspectors on the job site.



For the most part, he said everyone is staying positive and working as normal.

Working together to get through this
By Ashley Perez, Public Affairs Manager, District Two

I feel blessed to have the capability to do my work from my office at home, but I have quickly learned with that comes new challenges.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis in my role as Public Affairs Manager for north central Kansas, I visited highway construction and maintenance projects regularly to get photos or updates for newsletters and other purposes without having to ask for help. That ability quickly changed with “no travel” and social distancing expectations.



I no longer could jump in my work vehicle and head out to a project to get photos and expect to find someone there from KDOT to provide me with updates. Now, I must ask others to provide photos and updates to me so I can share information and send news releases for projects as needed.

For me, this was a struggle at first as I hate having to ask for help. As I began reaching out to my coworkers for their help, I noticed they were more than happy to help and quickly realized we are all in this together and we will get through this!

Welcome to KDOT, new Hires!

District One:

Paul Brady, Equipment Operator, Osage City
Andrew Patterson, Equipment Operator, Mayetta
Jacob Rhoades, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Olathe
Ricardo Ruiz, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Lawrence

District Two:

Brandon Bennett, Engineering Tech Assoc., Concordia
Jaylen Chambers, Engineering Tech Assoc., Junction City
Joshua Erickson, Equipment Mechanic, Scandia
John Heam, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Waterville
Tyler Johnson, Engineering Tech Assoc., Salina
Ernest McKinley, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Miltonvale
Dalton Metcalfe, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Wilsey
Lauren Spelts, Engineering Tech Assoc., Herington
Douglas Toburen, Engineering Tech Assoc., Bennington
Gavin Tracy, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Formoso

District Three:

Clinton Capps, Engineering Tech Assoc., Quinter
Dougherty, Daryl Engineering Tech Assoc., Arga

District Four:

Matthew Robbins, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Ottawa
Jeff Shepard, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Yates Center

District Five:

Nathan Brooks, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Coldwater
Brian Carnahan, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Wichita

Christopher Good, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Derby
Danny Maslow, Equipment Mechanic, Leon
Joseph Michal, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Pratt
Samuel Perlman, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Wichita
Keegan St. Clair, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Newton
John Thompson, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Wichita
Hunter Treadwell, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Park City
Tyler Wedel, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Wichita

District Six:

Chan Landa, Equipment Operator, Trainee, Hugoton

Headquarters:

Justin Gfeller, IT Services Consultant, Topeka
Jasmine Long, Engineering Tech Assoc., Meriden
Susan Miller, Administrative Specialist Topeka
JP Redmon, Applications Developer II, Lawrence

Retirees:

The following employees will retire from KDOT on May 1.

District Five

Leslie Gregory, Engineering Technician Specialist, Winfield

District Two

Galen Johnson, Equipment Operator Senior, McPherson

District One

Donley Rees, Engineering Technician, Emporia

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

STOP

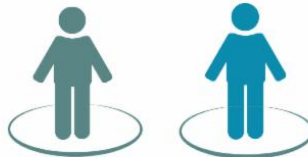
The spread of COVID-19



**WASH YOUR
HANDS OFTEN
FOR 20 SECONDS**



**COUGH INTO
YOUR ELBOW**



**KEEP AT LEAST
6-FEET APART**



**STAY HOME
IF YOU ARE
SICK**



**DON'T TOUCH
YOUR FACE**



**WEAR A
FACE
COVERING**



**CHECK YOUR
TEMPERATURE**

Temperatures should be checked twice a day for those reporting to a KDOT building or jobsite. Individuals with 100.0 F or higher must remain at home.



**CLEAN
SURFACES
OFTEN**

Email questions related to COVID-19 to: KDOT#COVID-19@ks.gov