

Work Zone Fatality

Work zone fatality:

KDOT Equipment Operator Stephen Windler died at about 6 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19, in a crash during snow removal operations on southbound U.S. 69 south of 207th Street in Johnson County.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash.

According to the KHP crash log, the vehicle overturned and rolled 1.25 times.

"My heart is breaking for the family of this dedicated KDOT employee," said Gov. Laura Kelly. "Our KDOT personnel work very hard, at all hours, in dangerous conditions to make our roads safer for their fellow Kansas citizens. My thoughts are with his family, friends and the entire KDOT family at this devastating time."

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and the co-workers of our driver," said Secretary of Transportation Julie Lorenz. "KDOT is one big family, and we know there are many people impacted by this."



Stephen Windler

Below is a note sent from Secretary Julie Lorenz to KDOT employees on Jan. 19 -

"Early this morning we suffered a terrible loss as a KDOT employee was killed during snow removal operations on southbound U.S. 69 south of 207th Street in Johnson County. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family members and co-workers. Gov. Laura Kelly also extends her deepest sympathy. We both understand what it's like to lose someone. Stephen Windler worked at the KDOT Overland Park Subarea office and has been with KDOT for about three years. This morning, I went with the KHP to meet with his family to personally convey deepest sympathies on behalf of everyone at KDOT.

While this is a heart-breaking way to end my first week back at the department, I know every person who works here is a part of the KDOT family and this deeply affects us all. As more information is available, it will be shared so we can help his family in whatever ways we can.

Please please – make safety your top priority."

Secretary of Transportation

Lorenz to lead KDOT: Gov. Laura Kelly has appointed Julie Lorenz to lead KDOT as Interim Secretary. She succeeds Richard Carlson, who retired on Jan. 11.

While new to this position, this is her second tour of duty for KDOT, serving as the Director of Public Affairs and Special Assistant from 2003 to 2011. During that time, Lorenz led the development of several efforts at the agency, including the development and eventual legislative passage of the \$8.2 billion, 10-year T-WORKS funding program in spring 2010.

"I am honored to be back at KDOT," Lorenz said. "I'm excited to help develop new opportunities to expand our transportation investments



Julie Lorenz

across the state while also working to maintain the existing system.

Transportation is a part of everyone's lives and the work KDOT does is critical to our state."

Lorenz comes from Burns & McDonnell where she was a Principal specializing in strategic business consulting

and planning and policy development for the transportation industry at the national, regional and local levels.

State of the State



Gov. Laura Kelly delivers her first State of the State address to the 2019 Legislature on Jan. 15 at the State Capitol.



District Four

Andrew Snider and James Hasselbring, Equipment Operators at the Independence KDOT office, make repairs to a guardrail post that was damaged during a recent crash on U.S. 166. Maintenance activities along the highways are continuing during the milder days of winter.



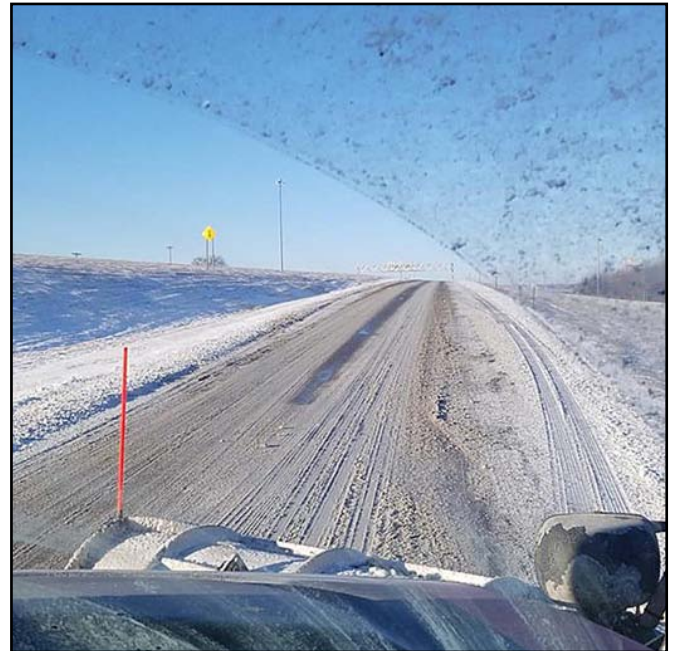
Winter storms



Plowing continued through the night on Jan. 11 as seen in this photo taken by Supervisor Brian Link along a northbound I-35 ramp in Johnson County. The tow plow can be seen behind but is not deployed because of the width of the ramp at this location.



Above, ice and snow started covering U.S. 36 near Atwood the morning of Jan. 22. The storm moved across the northern part of the state that afternoon and night. At right, after battling snow and ice overnight, crews continue clearing ramps at I-70 in Salina on Jan. 23.



Just a few of the many nice notes KDOT has received for snow operation efforts -

- ♦ I'm a tour bus driver, I work out of Ks. This week I have transported our men and women from Fort Riley to Topeka to fly out on a mission. Because you do such an awesome job keeping our roads clear, my co-workers and I were able to transport our troops safely. A huge thank you for all you do.
- ♦ I just wanted to say thank you to the road crews doing the snow plow and treatment of the roads.

Jan. 22 was a bad night to be out and I know these staff don't get the recognition they deserve. Roads on Jan. 23 were in great shape for the poor weather they had to deal with and they deserve all the credit. Excellent job!

- ♦ I just want to say thank you to all the KDOT employees in the Wichita area that worked on the streets last night and this morning. The roads are in good condition. I appreciate all that you do. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!

Trivia!

State Capitol - from the Kansas Historical Society

1. Who helped with the donation of the site for the Kansas State Capitol?
2. The east wing cornerstone was made with brown stone and laid Oct. 17, 1866. What happened to it?
3. When did the legislature first meet in the new

part of the building?

4. When did construction begin on the north and south wings?
5. How long did construction of the Capitol take? How much was the total cost?
6. What are the dimensions of the building?

District Four



KDOT awarded King's Construction Co., Inc., of Oskaloosa the \$12 million construction contract to construct a grade-separated interchange at the junction of U.S. 169 and U.S. 160 in Montgomery County. Work is expected to begin this spring on the T-Works project, which had been in delayed status. Stephen Bass' road squad and Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Cyrus K. Holliday, who was one of the founders of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway.
2. It did not harden sufficiently between quarrying and construction. Following a harsh winter, the cornerstone and the foundation of the wing crumbled. Limestone from other areas was then used.
3. 1870, while construction was still taking place on the east wing.
4. 1883.
5. It took 37 years to build and was officially completed on March 24, 1903. The total cost was \$3,200,588.92.
6. The Capitol measures 399 feet north and south, and 386 feet east and west. It stands 306 feet from the ground to the top of Ad Astra's bow. The west wing is four feet wider and six feet longer than the east wing.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of retiree Marion "Dale" Dodson of Elk City who passed away on Jan. 12. He started in 1974 and worked for KDOT for more than 29 years in the Independence office as an Equipment Operator.

Kansas Transportation

Monday, Jan. 14

Eaton's hidden talent under the orange hat

Many KDOT Equipment Operators have interesting skills, hobbies or talents. One of those hidden talents was found in District Two in Concordia. The Concordia Subarea employees and Supervisor David Casper discovered their coworker, Tracy Eaton, had been coming into work early every morning before getting to work so he could draw pictures. Eaton's pictures were not just paper sketches that any person could draw, but rather artistic artwork he had created of KDOT equipment and more. Eaton enjoys drawing and says he must have been born with his artistic talent because he's drawn his whole life. Although he has never taken art lessons, he did take second place in his high

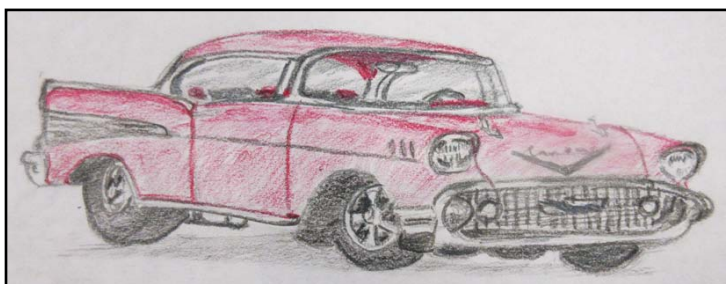


school art class.

Eaton's coworkers liked his pictures so much that they began asking him for specific drawings of the KDOT snow plows, cars, etc. Eaton keeps several sketch pads in the break room at work to draw in when he is on break.



A few of Eaton's colored pencil drawings.



See more stories on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

District Six

Being prepared: As fall rolled into winter, District Six responded to small scattered snow events. But Dec. 27, the District was hit with 50 mph winds accompanied by rain turning to snow, resulting in a layer of ice covered with 8-10 inches of snow.

Crews worked around the clock to clear roads, only to be hit with another blast on Jan. 11-12, which dumped up to 10 inches of snow in southwest Kansas. This past weekend had another snow event as well.

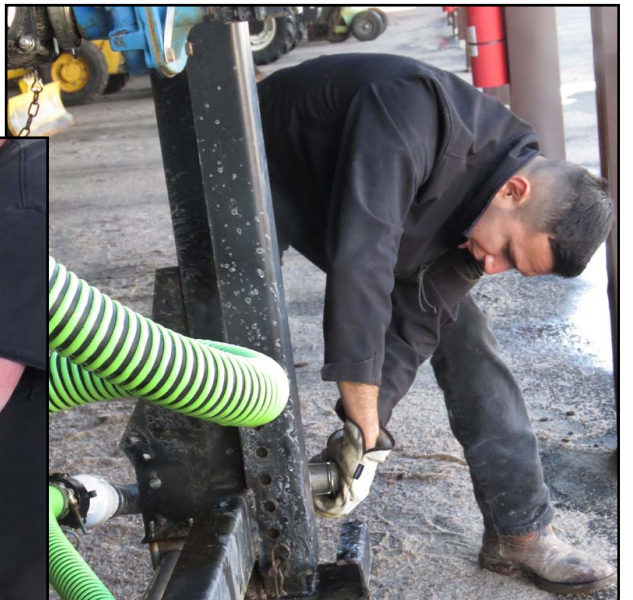
As a result, District Six crews, mechanics and engineering technicians have pulled together to keep things moving. District and Subarea crews have been busy maintaining equipment, making brine and restocking sand and salt as needed, while the engineering technicians test the sand and salt. District and Area mechanics have serviced and repaired equipment that took a beating with all the snow, ice, sand and salt. In the end, District Six employees are ready for the next round.



Above, Mechanic Osvaldo Erives works on a DEF system while at right, Mechanics Robin Walker and Larry Fears transfer antifreeze from a truck so they can repair the engine turbo.



Above, Equipment Operators Charles Seabolt and Tim Harris replace blades on the snow plow in Ulysses while below, Equipment Operator Edwin Pineda checks the spray pattern on the brine truck.



Far left, sand is delivered to the Garden City Subarea. Left, Engineering Technician Jonathon Lundin tests the sand to make sure it meets KDOT standards.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gov. Laura Kelly and others participated in a march on the Capitol grounds as part of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Jan. 17.



KTA

The year 2018 had a variety of innovative and customer-driven work for the KTA. Several of these accomplishments were award-winning. View them [here](#).

At left, crews worked on pouring a new tunnel at Southern Terminal at MM 17 on I-35/KTA to prepare for the plaza's conversion to open road tolling.