

STATE OF KANSAS



South Central District Office  
500 N. Hendricks  
Hutchinson, KS 67504-0769

PHONE: 620-663-3361  
FAX: 620-663-1804  
[WWW.KSDOT.ORG](http://WWW.KSDOT.ORG)

GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.  
RICHARD CARLSON, SECRETARY

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**For more information:**

Deb Gruver  
(620) 663-3361  
[Deb.Gruver@ks.gov](mailto:Deb.Gruver@ks.gov)

## **KDOT plans open house April 13 in Hutchinson**

KDOT's South Central District Office in Hutchinson is having an open house and job fair from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 13 in the parking lot of the district's conference center at 1220 W. Fourth Ave.

The district will have specialized trucks and equipment for children and adults to see up close as well as employees available to talk to the public about their jobs. Refreshments will be served, and KDOT souvenirs, including tote bags, will be handed out to attendees.

The event is part of National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 9 to 13. The annual event brings to light the hazards and dangers of driving through work zones.

"The idea behind our open house is to give the traveling public an opportunity to meet the people we ask them to slow down for on our state road system," said Public Affairs Manager Deb Gruver. "Our employees work hard in adverse conditions, and we want the public to understand that there are real people behind the orange cones."

The top contributing factor of work zone crashes is inattention. Other factors include following too closely, driving too fast for conditions, improper lane changes and right-of-way violations. In 2017, there was an average of 4.8 work zone crashes every day in Kansas — 1,779 for the year.

"Fortunately, most crashes — about 80 percent — involved only property damage," Gruver said. "But there were eight fatal crashes that killed 12 people. We can't stress enough how important it is to pay attention and slow down."

KDOT asks people driving in work zones to:

- Follow traffic control
- Stay alert and watch for workers
- Expect delays
- Allow ample space between vehicles
- Change lanes when directed to do so

Representatives from human resources also will be on hand during the April 13 event to take applications for jobs open across the district, which spans an 18-county area. HR personnel also will be able to answer questions about the benefits of working for KDOT.

The free event is family-friendly, and children are welcome to attend.

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700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 Voice/Hearing Impaired – 711.

