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Johannsen of KDOT's Syracuse crew recognized for 25 years of service

Michael Johannsen of Syracuse was recently recognized for 25 years of service to the Kansas Department of Transportation and to Southwest Kansas.

Growing up and graduating from high school in Meade, Michael worked at Meade State Lake and later worked at National Beef. After earning his CDL, he joined the Syracuse KDOT Subarea crew as an Equipment Operator Trainee in 1995. He was promoted to Equipment Operator II in 1996 and Equipment Operator III in 1998.

During his 25 years at KDOT, Michael has helped build a radio tower pad, salt and sand bunkers, metal buildings and salt domes. His Subarea team has earned a safety award. He's been a part of two Example of Excellence teams. One for repairs made to a homeowner's drive to protect the home from flooding following a construction project and one for helping to build a salt and sand bunker.

Michael has many KDOT memories, but, says the most memorable was the '07 blizzard, "two straight weeks, working nights to move snow and scrape ice off the roads."

He is the only District Six employee to work in all three District Six areas. He adds "I've worked with a lot of great people over the years. I'd like to thank them for all they have taught me."

In addition to serving his state and community through his work at KDOT, Michael serves as a volunteer fireman in Hamilton County. He helps with training, looks after his fellow volunteers while on scene, washes trucks and helps out wherever needed.

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