

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Be aware of the potential for severe weather before traveling

With images of the Oklahoma devastation fresh in their minds, thousands of Kansans will take to the highways over the Memorial Day weekend.

Unfortunately, no evasive or protective action can guarantee safety if caught in a car as a tornado approaches, and every situation is unique. But a few precautions could prevent serious injury or death.

- **Know before you go.** Check weather reports and be aware of the potential for severe weather along your route before leaving home. KDOT's 511 traveler information services provide weather warnings through a website, phone line, and text and email alerts. Learn more by visiting www.kandrive.org.
- While en route to your destination, be aware of developing conditions by tuning to a local radio station. Electronic highway message signs provide **road conditions**, but don't have the data support to provide current **tornado warning** messages.
- If a tornado is approaching, weather experts advise the best course of action is to seek shelter inside a building if possible. Attempting to outrun a tornado in a vehicle puts the traveler (and other travelers) at risk of a crash. Nearby roads may not provide an escape angle.

- Don't seek shelter under a highway overpass. Experts say there is a high risk of being struck by swirling debris or being sucked out into the storm.
- Weather safety experts are in some disagreement about whether the next safest course is to leave the vehicle to take shelter in a ditch or low-lying area, or remain in the car, buckle up and duck down as low as possible. **Be aware there are risks to both.**

For safety tips and information about how to protect yourself and others while driving in severe weather, visit websites of organizations such as the National Weather Service or American Red Cross.

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For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information,
700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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