

Snow Plow Crashes



At least 10 KDOT snow plows and two belonging to the Kansas Turnpike Authority were struck by traffic while plowing during the early February snow storm. Check out this video with interviews from snow plow drivers [here](#) - it's on the Kansas Transportation blog at the website <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>.

District Six



This is one of a trio of empty tanks too tall to fit under the Marshall Road Bridge over U.S. 400, west of Dodge City. The accident occurred Feb. 11 and closed this segment of U.S. 400, which connects U.S. 50 to U.S. 56, for about three hours. The tanks did not do any damage to the bridge. It's the second time in four months, though, that the bridge has been struck.

Snow Storm Efforts

KDOT crews plow 565,000 miles: KDOT snow crews plowed and treated 565,000 lane miles of highway from Feb. 3-6 at a cost of nearly \$3 million. KDOT drivers operated 591 trucks to treat and clear roads of snow and ice in every region of the state. About 1,100 snow plow operators logged more than 37,000 hours during that time.

"The snow amounts, wind and frigid temperatures made this a dangerous storm for our crews. I can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication in keeping the roads safe," said Secretary Mike King.

"I also want to thank the many others at KDOT who supported the storm efforts, including mechanics, office staff and those who helped keep travelers informed of road conditions," he said.

Winter Storm Nika by the numbers:

- ♦591 - Dump trucks
- ♦565,000 - Miles treated/plowed
- ♦37,000 - Labor hours
- ♦8,600 - Tons of salt
- ♦1,300 - Tons of sand
- ♦19,500 - Tons of salt/sand mix
- ♦345,000 - Gallons of brine
- ♦2,000 - Gallons of magnesium chloride
- ♦500 - Twitter and Facebook postings
- ♦3,200 - KDOT blog views
- ♦8,200- Calls to 511 travel line
- ♦\$3 million - Cost of storm, about \$1.15 per registered vehicle
- ♦117,000/895,000 - Visits to and page views on KanDrive travel information website

Letters to the Editor

I'm writing to let you know that at least two of your employees in northwest Kansas have really made some people happy. I contacted them on behalf of the Russell Horseshoe Club that the Ted Allen green sign at Natoma had been stolen or taken down. The question was how could another sign be made and put up again. Ted Allen was a world horseshoe pitching champion and was from Natoma. Many horseshoers take a side trip to Natoma just to take a picture. I contacted Jeff Stewart and he and Harold Schleicher seemed to be the ones to find the missing sign and get it up within 3 days of inquiry. The horseshoe club in Russell is so very happy and have asked me to write something for their newsletter. KDOT will be getting some props. Just wanted you to know. Thanks to your great employees.

Marci Penner,
Kansas Sampler

Hello. I wasn't sure who to contact but, wanted to send a quick thank you note to the team of crews that work diligently to clear the roads with the last 2 winter snow storms. It gets very old turning on the news only to hear all the complaints from people that were not necessary when the roads were the way they were. It is sad when all people can do is complain rather than say thank you for working and clearing a road so I can safely drive anywhere. It is SNOW!!! The roads will not be perfect with an uncontrollable condition.

I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you and I really appreciated all the crews and their 12 hour days clearing as much as they could so I would be able to get out and drive.

Kind Regards,
Shannon R. Zink,
Pratt Industries

You should be commended on doing a good job organizing and clearing off the streets so quickly yesterday (Feb. 10). Within 5 hours after the snow stopped most everywhere was passable and Kellogg was clear and dry. Have a good day.

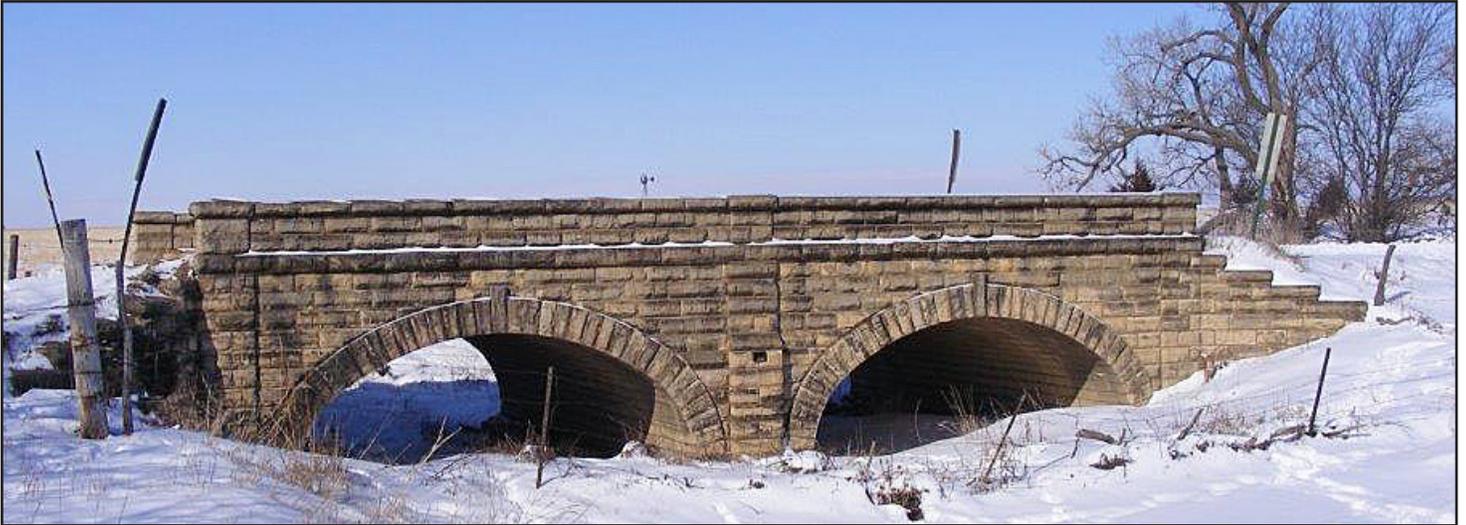
Matt Catanese

District Three



Mechanics in District Three at Norton, including Cameron Archer, left, and Josh Hansen, right, have been busy repairing trucks after the recent winter storm. From electrical issues to engine overhauls, approximately 50 of the District's 81 trucks needed repairs during or after the storm. "We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of mechanics," said Maintenance Engineer Joe Finley. "I am confident they will have everything ready for the next storm."

National Register of Historic Places



The Sand Creek Tributary Stone Arch Bridge has been submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical significance: The Kansas Historical Society recently forwarded nine nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C. One of the nominations is the Sand Creek Tributary Stone Arch Bridge located two miles west and 1.4 miles north of La Crosse in Rush County.

The double-arch limestone bridge was constructed during the Works Projects Administration in 1942 and was one of the last New Deal-era construction projects in Rush County. Its limestone construction is representative of master stone builders and the craftsmanship of construction workers trained by the WPA. The bridge

is nominated as part of the New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas and Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas multiple property nominations for its local significance in government, social history and engineering. The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. It is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archeological resources. For more information on the nine nominations being forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places, go to <http://kshs.org/p/news-releases/11690>.

Trivia!

Snow

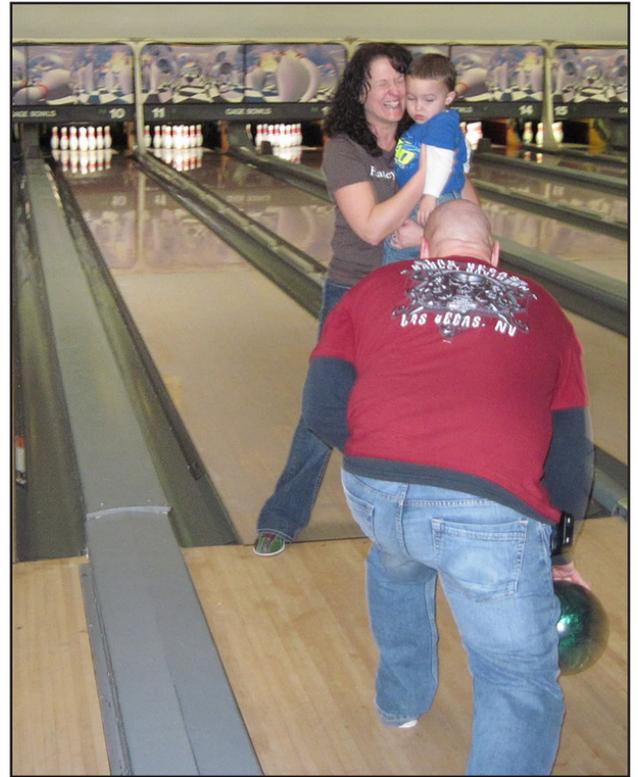
1. How much snow was recorded at Mount Baker Ski Area in the state of Washington from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999?
2. Tamarack, Calif., in the Sierra Nevada Mountains recorded the greatest snow depth ever measured on March 11, 1911. How much was it?
3. How much snow fell in a single day in Silver Lake, Colo., on April 14-15, 1921?
4. What is the average density of new snow?
5. About how much new snow does it take to produce one inch of water?

Answers below

Aviation

Aviation committee: Secretary Mike King has named new members to the Kansas Aviation Advisory and Review Committee. The committee advises Secretary King on aviation matters and reviews current and proposed programs. "I appreciate the work this committee does for Kansas aviation," said Secretary King. "Now is the time to strengthen our programs and I believe this committee will help us ensure that we are as strategic with our investment choices as possible." Members of the committee include Missy Knott, Newton, Chief Operating Officer of LifeTeam, a critical care ambulance service provider; Shelli Swanson, Salina, Salina Airport Authority, Director of Administration and Finance; Jason Wojteczko, Derby, owner of Compass Rose Aviation flight training; Andy Hineman, Scott City, Spencer Flight and Education Center; Brian Youngers, Wichita, Signature Flight Support, Station Manager; Ken Brock, Pittsburg, owner and founder of Names and Numbers; Tim Tyree, Kinsley, of the Kansas Association of Aerial Applicators; and Dr. Kurt Barnhart, Salina, of K-State Salina. Kansas airports annually support more than 47,000 jobs, generate \$2.3 billion in payroll and produce \$10.4 billion in economic activity. Under T-WORKS, annual state spending for the Kansas Airport Improvement Program increased to \$5 million from \$3 million.

Crazy Bowl



Above, KDOT employee Danielle Marten and daughter, Mya, are excited to participate in Crazy Bowl on Feb. 16 in Topeka. At right, grandson Easton keeps an eye on KDOT employee Tony Trower while he's bowling with his wife, Julie. Fourteen teams participated in the event.

Olympic Effort

The need for speed: The KDOT headquarters Twitter account, @KDOTHQ, picked up a fast follower last week, one with Olympic speed. Olympic skeleton racer Katie Uhlaender, @KatieU11, followed the account after KDOT tweeted they were supporting the Kansas racer in her Olympic transportation efforts. She placed fourth overall, missing out on the bronze medal by .04 second. She posted several retweets including one that asked if the Kansas Highway Patrol would pull her over on a skeleton sled. Uhlaender said later that it meant a lot to her have support from fellow Kansans. "The life of a farmer in Kansas is one that I love! Mostly due to the community - it's one of true America," she said. Uhlaender farms and trains near Atwood in Rawlins County. She is now competing for a spot in the 2016 Olympics in weightlifting.

District Five

On Jan. 14, a large concrete pour for a bridge deck was completed at the I-235 and 13th Street project in west Wichita. Starting at 7 a.m., more than 10 hours of continuous pours from 94 concrete trucks resulted in 896 cubic yards of concrete being installed. A camera was set up at the site and captured this amazing video. Watch it at KDOT's You Tube page: <http://youtu.be/ba-mEOBYMbk>

District Five

Annual gathering: District Five's Construction and Materials meeting on Feb. 11 in Hutchinson opened with District Engineer Benny Tarverdi and other speakers providing employees updates on district, statewide and national transportation issues. Deputy Secretary and State Transportation Engineer Jerry Younger, Operations Director Catherine Patrick, Construction and Materials Bureau Chief Sandra Tommer and FHWA Engineering Team Leader Rusty Simerl spoke on topics ranging from erosion control compliance to personnel issues and the federal highway program.



At the meeting, Assistant District Engineer Brent Terstriep presented the 2013 District Five Inspector of the Year award to Ed Niemczyk, Engineering Technician Senior from El Dorado.

District Two

Actions based on listening prove fruitful for local community: After talking with the public at a meeting recently in Belleville concerning future work on U.S. 36, District Engineer Randy West and Area Engineer Leland Tice took that local feedback to Topeka to discuss the U.S. 36 improvements.

In early February, Tice told the local paper efforts were being made to extend the construction area to include S Street in the U.S. 36 improvements. This addition would allow the three-lane facility under consideration to provide left turn storage for school buses, a high priority for the community. To make this a reality, the local preference to retain a four-lane highway will need to be abandoned in favor of the three-lane presented by KDOT. The revised preferred alternative is scheduled to be presented to city and county commissioners for their support. Debbie Tanking and her team will then develop a final design.

Snow Removal

An excerpt from a Feb. 16 Wichita Eagle article - **Cities have different 'game plans' for snow emergencies:** After a major storm dumped nine inches of snow, main highways in the Wichita area were clear the next day, while the city's snow emergency routes remained snowpacked and icy for five days.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's highways are the gold standard for snow removal in Wichita these days, a dubious honor that makes the state's snowplow czar chuckle.

"Ah, there are a thousand paths that will lead all of us to spring," said Peter Carttar, KDOT's assistant maintenance chief. "There are a lot of techniques for removing snow. Sometimes they work. Sometimes they don't.

"And you understand that Mother Nature, when she decides to dump on us, is going to dump faster than we can plow it."

To read the rest of the article, go to <http://goo.gl/jEvB7U>.

District Six



Area Superintendent Ron Munyan took this photo of a super load headed south out of Syracuse on Feb. 14.

Fatality

Highway worker killed in Illinois:

A plow truck driver with the Illinois Department of Transportation was killed in a wreck in Stark County on Feb. 14 after stopping to help a stranded motorist, according to a report by Central Illinois Proud and a news story published by WQAD.

Michael Holmes, 49, of Wyoming, Ill., was reportedly plowing along Route 17 when

he got out of his plow truck to lend a hand to someone else. A vehicle reportedly lost control, hitting the plow truck and then striking Holmes.

The report indicated that Holmes was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead about 10:30 a.m.

The Department of Transportation said Holmes had worked with the winter operations crew since 2007.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 1,140 inches, or 95 feet
2. 451 inches, or 37.5 feet
3. 6.3 feet
4. It has about 8 percent water
5. About 13 inches of snow