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World Day of Remembrance, Crash Responder Safety Week both strive to reduce traffic fatalities

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) is globally recognized to remember people killed and seriously injured on roadways. This year, WDoR is Nov. 17, and it recognizes the victims, families and communities affected by traffic crashes and urges everyone to improve traffic safety. This year's theme is Remember. Support. Act.

Objectives of WDoR include:

- Remembering those killed and seriously injured in crashes.
- Acknowledging the efforts of emergency services.
- Advocating for traffic victims and families.
- Promoting ways to prevent and stop traffic deaths and injuries.

In 2023, 387 Kansans lost their lives in traffic crashes. Preliminary data shows fatal crashes are down this year throughout the state, but more can be done.

“As we remember the lives lost on Kansas roadways, we are reminded to always buckle up, slow down and make smart choices,” said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman.

Nov. 18 to 22 is also Crash Responder Safety Week, which recognizes those who clear roadways after a crash and promotes improved awareness to help keep responders safe. This year's theme is “Responders Ahead! Reduce Your Speed As You Proceed.”

Kansas' Move Over law requires drivers to move over or slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights, including towing and recovery vehicles, traveling in the same direction.

“We can enhance safety and increase response times for our emergency responders by simply slowing down and moving over for them to do their job,” Herman said.

For more information about WDoR, visit <https://worlddayofremembrance.org/#top>. For more information about Crash Responder Safety Week, visit <https://transportationops.org/TIM/CRSW>.

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