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Motorists Reminded to Buckle Up

APRIL 09TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Motorists Reminded to Buckle Up

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Missouri - Warm April days find more motorists on Missouri's roadways. Some are on a mission, while others are just out on a leisurely drive to see the sights of spring.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to remind motorists that law enforcement will be out in full force on **April 14**, cracking down on unbelted motorists, and encouraging drivers to not drive distracted.

April is National Distracted Driving Month. This year, in cooperation with the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement day, drivers will be strongly encouraged to pay attention to the primary task of driving.

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from driving, such as texting, eating, grooming, or even talking to other passengers in the vehicle. All of these could be very dangerous. However, because text messaging requires visual, manual and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most deadly distraction.

"In 2013, 117 seat belt and six child restraint violations were issued statewide during this one day campaign," said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "Wearing a seat belt can also be your best defense against distracted drivers."

Also don't forget to buck up your four legged friends. They distract you while driving if they can move around the vehicle. Plus if you are in a wreck they are protected as well.

For more information visit saveMOLives.com. You can also follow SaveMOLives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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MDC Encourages People to Help Prevent Wildfires

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MDC Encourages People to Help Prevent Wildfires

*Submitted by
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Missouri - A combination of strong winds, low humidity, dry conditions, and warming temperatures this time of year has the potential to create explosive wildfires. Each year,

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff work with fire departments around the state to help suppress thousands of wildfires that can consume tens-of-thousands of acres.

According to MDC's Forestry Division, the main cause of wildfires is improper burning of debris such as trash and brush piles. The Department urges landowners, hunters, campers, and others in the outdoors to help prevent wildfires and offers the following tips.

Outdoor Burning

Do not conduct outdoor burning during times when grasses, brush, and other fire fuels are very dry, humidity is low and weather is windy.

Dry fuel, combined with high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds, makes fire nearly impossible to control.

Check with local fire departments regarding burn bans that may be in place, or if there is a "red flag warning." A red flag warning is issued when there is a high risk of fire spreading rapidly because of low humidity and high winds.

A person who starts a fire for any reason is responsible for any damage it may cause.

For more information on using prescribed fire as a land-management tool, visit mdc.mo.gov and search "Prescribed Fire." Driving Off Road

Wildfires can start when fine, dry fuel such as grass comes in contact with catalytic converters on motor vehicles.

- *Think twice before driving into and across a grassy field.

- *Never park over tall, dry grass or piles of leaves that can touch the underside of a vehicle.

- *When driving vehicles off road, regularly inspect the undercarriage to ensure that fuel and brake lines are intact and no oil leaks are apparent.

- *Always carry an approved fire extinguisher on vehicles that are used off road.

- *Check for the presence of spark arresters on ATV exhausts.

Making a Campfire

Clear a generous zone around fire rings. When humidity is low and wind is high, debris

can become tinder for a stray spark or ember.

*Store unused firewood a good distance from the fire.

*Never use gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable liquid to start a fire.

*Keep campfires small and controllable.

*Keep fire-extinguishing materials, such as a rake, shovel, and bucket of water, close by.

*Never leave a campfire unattended! Extinguish campfires each night and before leaving camp, even for a few moments.

*Smokers: Practice Extra Caution - Extinguish cigarettes completely and safely and dispose of butts responsibly.

Don't Delay Calling for Help!

Call 911 at the first sign of a fire getting out of control.

Report Forest Arson - Many wildfires are set by vandals.

Help stop arson by calling Operation Forest Arson at 800-392-1111. Callers will remain anonymous and rewards are possible.

DID YOU KNOW: In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, MDC provided more than \$354,000 in grants to 182 volunteer fire departments last year for protective clothing, equipment, and training. The Department also obtained more than \$5 million in equipment from federal government programs for volunteer fire departments in the state, and provided wildland fire-suppression training to more than 400 Missouri firefighters.

For more information on preventing wildfires, go online to **mdc.mo.gov**.

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Gov. Nixon Declares State of Emergency

APRIL 03RD 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Gov. Nixon Declares State of Emergency

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Missouri - Gov. Jay Nixon today declared a state of emergency in Missouri as a widespread severe weather system continued to move across the state, bringing heavy rain, hail, high winds, flooding and flash flooding, and at least one reported tornado. The heavy rain associated with the severe weather has already led to several water rescues along flooded streams and rivers. Another round of severe weather is forecast for much of the state today.

“With the continued significant risk of severe storms and flooding, I urge Missourians to closely monitor weather conditions, so they can take shelter or move to higher ground if needed,” Gov. Nixon said. “The state of Missouri will continue to work closely with local officials to help protect lives and property from these storms.”

The Governor ordered activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, which has been closely monitoring the storm system. Gov. Nixon has been receiving updates from his emergency management team to assess the current weather situation and address local needs. The team includes senior officials

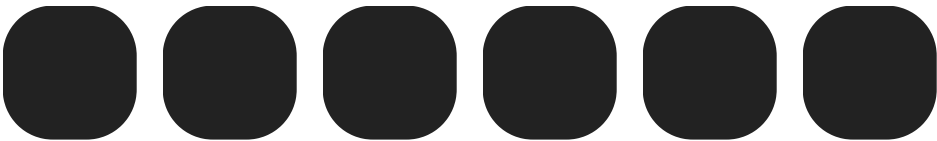
from the Missouri Department of Public Safety, the State Emergency Management Agency, the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Gov. Nixon has also activated the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan, which allows state agencies to coordinate directly with local jurisdictions to provide emergency services.

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I-55 in Scott County Reduced to One Lane

APRIL 01ST 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

I-55 in Scott County Reduced to One Lane

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Scott County, Missouri - For those of you traveling on I-55 you might want to leave a little earlier on Monday and Tuesday.

North and Southbound I-55 in Scott County will be reduced to one lane as Missouri Department of Transportation crews perform routine bridge inspection.

This is the bridge over Ramsey Creek at Scott City.

Weather permitting, work will be performed Monday, April 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the northbound lanes and Tuesday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on southbound lanes.

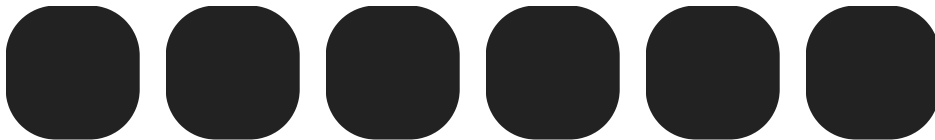
The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

For additional information, contact MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636) or visit www.modot.org/southeast.

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National One Cent Day!

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*Submitted by
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United States - National One Cent Day is celebrated each year on April 1. This day is all about the one cent piece (the penny).

The Lincoln cent is the current one cent coin of the U.S. dollar. Adopted in 1909, it replaced the Indian Head cent. From 1959 to 2008, the reverse side featured the Lincoln Memorial. Four different reverse designs in 2009 honored Lincoln's 200th birthday and a new, permanent reverse – the Union Shield – was introduced in 2010.

The U.S. Mint's official name for a penny is "cent" and the official name by the U.S. Treasury is "one cent piece". In American English, pennies is the plural form, other plural forms pence and pee (standard use in British English) are not used.

"As of 2012, it costs the U.S. Mint 2.00 cents to make a cent because of the cost of materials and production. This figure includes the Mint's fixed components for distribution and fabrication, estimated at \$13 million in FY 2011.

It also includes Mint overhead allocated to the penny, which was \$17.7 million for 2011. Fixed costs and overhead would have to be absorbed by other circulating coins without the penny.

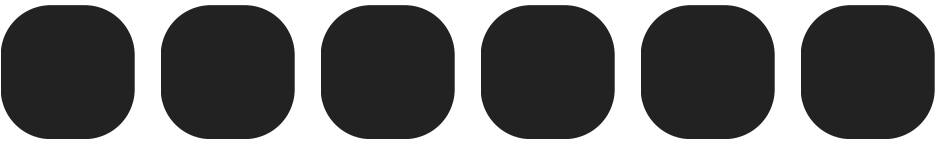
The loss in profitability due to producing the one cent coin in the United States for the year of 2012 was \$58,000,000. This was a slight decrease from 2011, the year before, which had a production loss of \$60,200,000." (Wikipedia)

On National One Cent Day, you can research the history of the penny and also learn about saving your cents. Each cent saved accumulates over time.

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