



Tribal Response Newsletter

Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

October 2014

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The Sac and Fox EPA's Ongoing Mission:

- Environmental Protection and Ensuring the Health and Well Being of the Community
- Creating Partnerships, Collaboration and Communication
- Providing Technical Assistance
- Improving the Quality of Life through Reuse and Redevelopment

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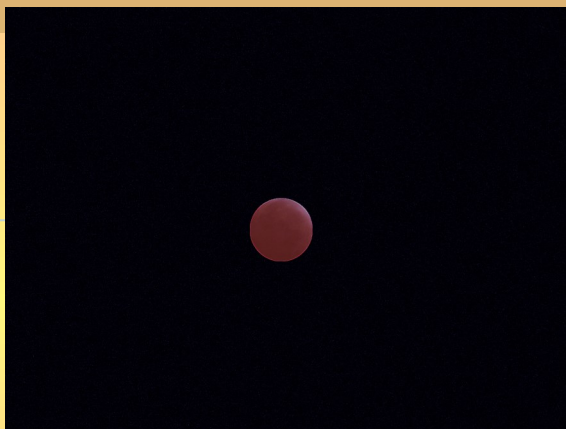
Harvest Means More Traffic on Local Roads

The temperature is dropping and while the frost has not yet touched the pumpkins the tell tale signs of Autumn are with us this month. A harvest moon, playoff baseball and the corn stalks have changed from vibrant green to lunch bag brown signaling heavy agricultural equipment will be on the roads.

The extra traffic of combines, grain trucks, trailers and personal vehicles mean local roads will be congested at times, dust will create visibility problems and oversize loads all mean that there will be times we will need to slow down.

The rainfall of the past few weeks have left some of the lesser used roads in our area with ruts which will

decrease a vehicles maneuverability and breaking performance. Dust from grain and harvested fields can make visibility difficult. Deer will find their daily routines disrupted and will start appearing in places we haven't seem them before and when we least expect them. The easy solution to this problem is to slow down and plan to spend an extra few minutes when you need to travel at this time of year. The construction delays at Pony Creek and the Nemaha River both at Falls City and Preston will not be the only slow downs that can be expected this time of year.



Total Lunar eclipse of Blood Moon viewed from Stateline Road near Walnut Cr. early morning of October 8.

Muddy fields will also bring obstacles to the roads as heavy equipment moving from one field to the next can drop large chunks of mud and debris on to the roads. The easy answer to all of these conditions is to simply slow down. You may also want to consider alternate routes if know where field or

What's Your Password?

Preparing for an emergency in the 21st century is bit different than in years past. While the basic tools for survival like, water, food and shelter are no less important a relatively new concern is making sure you have plans for securing digital information and files. Banking, insurance and business information stored on personal computers, tablets and phones can disappear in a heartbeat during an emergency.

Our Emergency Preparedness Survey conduct in July showed that 58% of tribal members did not have a plan in place to preserve or duplicate important information. If you are one of these people or just want more information on securing your digital information feel free to contact Tribal Response at (785) 742-4706.





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SAC AND FOX EPA



Tips for Safe Travel During Harvest Season

Collisions involving farm equipment can be prevented. Whether you are a motorist or a farmer, please do your part to make our public roads safer by implementing the practices listed below. This is a shared responsibility for everyone.

Recommendations for motorists

- ◇ Slow down immediately when you first see farm equipment ahead of you on the roadway. Farm equipment usually travels less than 25 miles per hour. It takes less than seven seconds for a car traveling at 55 mph to crash into the back of a tractor 400 feet away.
- ◇ Be patient and wait for an opportunity to safely pass farm equipment. The tractor or combine operator will probably be aware of your presence and will try to accommodate if possible as traffic begins to back up.
- ◇ Drive defensively when approaching on-coming farm equipment. Impatient motorists may pull out suddenly to pass the farm equipment and enter your lane.
- ◇ Be on the alert when you see amber flashing lights ahead in either lane.
- ◇ Be prepared to stop at railroad crossings when following a vehicle towing an anhydrous ammonia tank. Anhydrous ammonia tanks look like the large propane gas tanks used by rural homeowners.

Recommendations for farmers

- ◇ Always mount a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem to all tractors, combines and implements transported on public roads.
- ◇ Never use white lights on the rear of the tractor when driving on public roads. If you don't have a rear red light, have an escort vehicle follow within 50 feet of the tractor or implement of husbandry.
- ◇ Always use flashing amber warning lights on public roads.
- ◇ Check to see if traffic is backing up behind you and consider how to let traffic pass. Consider pulling over to the shoulder when it is safe for your vehicle.