

# Kansas Highway Patrol taking applications for next year's class

Kansas Highway Patrol will celebrate 75 years of operation next year, and the patrol will be hiring new troopers thanks to a grant awarded through Governor Sam Brownback's Grants Program office.

Through Wednesday the Kansas Highway Patrol will begin the process to hire recruit troopers who will comprise Class No. 50, and recruits will begin training in January.

Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, July 29. Applicants will go through an extensive hiring process, which includes a written examination, physical agility test, polygraph exam, background investigation, interview, physical examination and psychiatric test. Upon successful completion of these steps, final offers of employment will be made. The recruits will report to the Training Academy on Jan. 4, to begin 22

weeks of training.

The new troopers are being hired thanks to a grant through the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council under the Federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. The Governor's Grants Program provides the administrative oversight for the program. The program administers funds to organizations that aim to enhance the criminal justice system, improve public safety, support crime victim services, and drug and violence prevention programs.

With retirements, promotions and short-staffing in many areas of the state, these new troopers will come at a welcome time. The Patrol prides itself in the assistance we offer to local agencies. Hiring additional troopers will not only enhance our ability to assist other agencies, but provide much needed law enforcement coverage through-

out the state.

Traditionally the Patrol has hired two recruit classes per year, but due to budget constraints, the agency has not been able to maintain that practice. Last August 20 troopers graduated from the Academy, they were the first class trained since December 2008.

TO APPLY to be a member of KHP Class No. 50: Please register your personal data and promptly submit an Employment Application at [www.jobs.ks.gov](http://www.jobs.ks.gov). This site can be accessed from the [www.kansashighwaypatrol.org](http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org) website: click on Career Opportunities, Current Openings, Apply Online.

If you mail a hard copy application it must be post marked no later than Wednesday, and addressed to: Janice Kelly, c/o KHP Recruiting, 122 SW 7th Street, Topeka, KS 66603 (785-296-8091).

# Black Hills Energy gives regional firefighters natural gas fire fighting safety training

Natural gas service provider Black Hills Energy Thursday conducted natural gas fire safety training hosted by the Burlington Fire Department and attended by 20 surrounding fire departments from Colorado and Kansas.

The natural gas education and safety training session was led by Black Hills Energy's natural gas operations trainers. The training provides firefighters with an opportunity to practice techniques to effectively contain and extinguish actual natural gas fires under controlled circumstances using portable fire extinguishers and hose streams.

"Although natural gas is a safe fuel, and fires are rare, experience during a training exercise is the best way to learn how to fight this type of fire" said Chris Bauman, the company's supervisor for the Burl-

ington area, which includes natural gas service in Goodland. "This training is a partnership between Black Hills Energy and the local fire departments. It's a joint effort to protect the public. These sessions provide firefighters with the experience they need to effectively extinguish these types of fires if one should ever occur."

The training session was one of a series of fire safety seminars that Black Hills Energy has offered to firefighters for a number of years throughout its Colorado natural gas service territories and the other states the company serves. Firefighters gain hands-on experience and instruction in containing natural gas releases and fires. Firefighters learn the various characteristics of natural gas so they can safely and effectively manage a natural gas incident should one occur.

In one exercise, firefighters used hose streams and chemical extinguishers to put out ignited natural gas fed from a pipe beneath an old automobile to simulate what could happen if a car struck a gas meter. In another scenario, techniques to safely contain and extinguish natural gas fires from pipeline punctures were practiced.

"We want to give special thanks to Schaal Drilling Company of Burlington for allowing us to conduct this training on their property," Bauman said.

Participating fire departments from Colorado and Kansas were: Idalia, Joes, Kirk, Yuma County, Burlington, Stratton, Vona, Flagler, Hale, Cheyenne Wells, Limon, Hugo, Arriba, Genoa, Sharon Springs, Goodland, Sherman County, Brewster and Kanorado.

# Troopers promote crossing safety



Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Minh Huynh was part of the effort to promote railroad crossing safety on Thursday just before the intersection of Highway 24 and 27 on 24. He and his fellow troopers were stopping cars to talk about crossings and to give the drivers a coupon for a free medium cherry limeade. There were also troopers on Highway 27 side of the intersection.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



# Hams in action

Sherman County ham operators Robert Campbell (KDOMVB, front right), Tom Betz (K0JEI, left) and Ray Smea (NONM) operate the three stations at the ham Field Day held Saturday through noon on Sunday at the Tourist Information Center on I-70 west of town.

Photo by Ava Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

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