

JOPLIN



Press Release

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Subject: Driver Education Program

As part of the Joplin Police Department's Driver Education Program, we are taking the month of September to focus on proper usage of the center turn lane. Through multiple citizen contacts, we have found that drivers are unaware of the center turn lane's particular function. To date for 2012, 111 crashes in the City of Joplin are contributed to improper lane use.

The turn lane is designed to be used for deceleration, moving the slowing car out of the through lane, thus enhancing traffic flow. By state law drivers are not to travel in the lane for more than 500 feet. The lane is designed for left turn movements only. The turn lane is not made to be use as a merge lane.

Drivers are encouraged at times of heavy traffic flow to not cross over traffic lanes. Rather, make a right turn into traffic and proceed to the next traffic control device.

As always, to keep you and your family safe and to reduce the chance of injury in a crash, Joplin Police Department asks you to take your time and always wear your seatbelt.

For more information, please refer to the Missouri Drivers Guide.

Attachment