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# Bud Shell Ford's Drive 4 UR School

APRIL 10TH 2014 BY BETH FARRAH

Bud Shell Ford's Drive 4 UR School

Written by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

**Dexter, Missouri** - Bud Shell Ford will be holding a Drive 4 UR School program at the Bearcat Event Center this Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am. All you have to do is test drive a new Ford vehicle and you will earn \$20 for Dexter's Junior High Beta Club! Help the club max out at \$6,000. The test driving vehicles include: New Ford F150, Cmax, Edge, Explorer, Focus, Fusion, Escape, Taurus or Fiesta! The event is rain or shine, so make sure to come out and support the Junior Beta Bearcats!

Ford's Drive 4 UR School was founded in 2007 and has been helping schools, clubs, and church groups reach their financial goals in preparation for trips and other fun activities. The program can be used from school activities such as Junior Beta Club to even building repairs or for new technological equipment! Local Ford dealerships across the country have been proud to participate and now Bud Shell has joined in on the fun!

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## Free for the Taking

APRIL 10TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Free for the Taking

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**Cape Girardeau County** - What's the perfect gift for the person who has everything? A bridge! Looking for something unique for the backyard? How about a bridge!

The historic Route 51 Bridge over Little Whitewater Creek in Bollinger County and the Route 61 Bridge over Hughes Creek in Cape Girardeau County are available for relocation and reuse by others.

Any interested party is encouraged to submit a proposal no later than June 2, 2014 to the Missouri Department of Transportation Historic Preservation Section to obtain either structure.

Slated for replacement in 2015, these bridges can be obtained by government entities, historical or civic groups, or private citizens, free of charge. Details about both bridges can be viewed online at <http://www.modot.org/freebridges/>. Anyone interested in obtaining a historic bridge must submit a detailed proposal describing the dismantling and relocation plan, cost and future use. A proposal checklist is available online.

The 1922 Route 51 Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic

Places as one of the earliest surviving standard plan pony truss bridges for the combination of unequal size trusses.

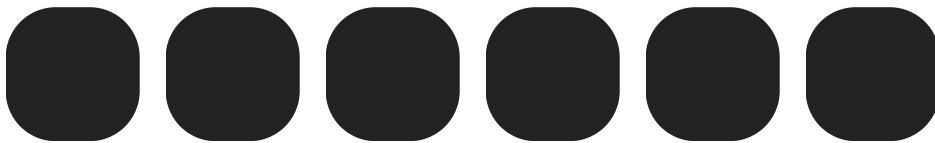
The Route 61 Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as an early example of State highway Department standard truss design and as an example of the reuse of trusses as the highway system developed in the 1920s and 1930s.

For more information about the bridges, please contact Karen Daniels, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at (573) 526-7346 or [Karen.Daniels@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Karen.Daniels@modot.mo.gov).

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## Move Over for Work Zones - It's the Law

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APRIL 10TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**Missouri** - Every spring, the Missouri Department of Transportation starts preparing for the summer season of roadwork across the state. Part of that preparation includes the observance of National Work Zone Awareness Week, which kicked-off today.

Highway workers spend their days working a short distance from fast-moving vehicles. They make every effort to work safely, but they count on motorists to pay attention, slow down, and use caution when driving through work zones.

In 2012, Governor Jay Nixon and the Missouri General Assembly added MoDOT vehicles to the "Move Over" law, which protects law enforcement and emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road. This law requires motorists to slow down or change lanes when approaching these vehicles and now includes MoDOT vehicles parked with amber and white lights flashing.

"The law is simple: If you see flashing lights on the side of the road, move over to give workers and emergency personnel plenty of room to stay safe," said MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger. "If you can't move over on a crowded highway, you should slow down as you pass them. We want you and our workers to make it home safe every day."

The severe downturn in transportation funding in Missouri means that MoDOT's focus is increasingly on preservation of the existing transportation system. It requires \$485 million per year to keep Missouri's roads and bridges in the condition they are in today. MoDOT's construction budget is slightly above that figure now, but by 2017 it will fall to \$325 million. That will lead to the eventual deterioration of highways across the state. Lots of resurfacing and bridge replacement projects will be required and that is the type of work that affects drivers the most.

Work zones come in many forms such as a lane closures that last for weeks or even months for roadway or bridge construction, or work zones that last a few hours or just one day for road maintenance.

"Not all work zones look alike," said MoDOT State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright. "We remind motorists that work zones can be moving operations, such as striping, patching or mowing. They can also be short term, temporary lane closures to make quick

repairs or remove debris from the roadway."

Work zone safety is a serious matter. Check out these current statistics:

In 2013, eight people were killed in work zones, compared to seven in 2012.

Between 2009 and 2013, 53 people were killed and 2,781 people were injured in Missouri work zones.

Since 2000, 16 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty.

The top five contributing circumstances for work zone crashes in 2013 were following too closely, improper lane use or changing lanes, inattention, driving too fast for conditions and failure to yield -- in that order.

The best defense in a work zone crash, or any crash, is a seat belt. In 2013, 63 percent of vehicle occupant fatalities were not wearing a seat belt.

To help make your travel safer, visit MoDOT's Traveler Information map at [www.traveler.modot.org/map](http://www.traveler.modot.org/map) and find out what work zones you'll encounter before you go. Motorists can comment on the quality of MoDOT's work zones with an online customer survey at <http://www.modot.org/workzones/Comments.htm>.

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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](http://saveMOLives.com). You can also follow SaveMOLives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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## MDC Encourages People to Help Prevent Wildfires

APRIL 08TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

MDC Encourages People to Help Prevent Wildfires

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**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](http://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.

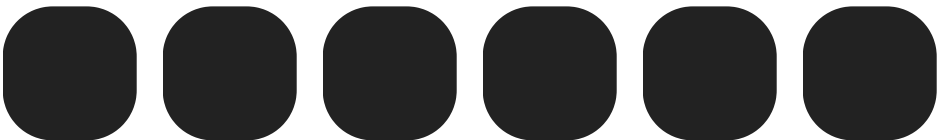
**DID YOU KNOW:** In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, MDC provided more than \$354,000 in grants to 182 volunteer fire departments last year for protective clothing, equipment, and training. The Department also obtained more than \$5 million in equipment from federal government programs for 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](http://mdc.mo.gov)**.

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