**Roadside Observations.** With the abnormal amount of moisture this spring, there has been a lot of damage done to roads. If you see that a roadway is closed, it’s closed for a reason and no one should be traveling on it.

* Water across roads. Some roads are closed because of high water. Other times, the rains can cause flash flooding where water covers roadways. If water is covering a roadway, no one should be driving through it. It may not look deep, but even a few inches of water could cause damage and disable a vehicle. If encountering a roadway covered with water, drivers should turn around and find an alternative route.

* When driving during a rainstorm, reduce your speed. The greater the speed a vehicle is traveling, the higher the probability a person may lose control of their vehicle. The tires of the vehicle may begin to ride on top of the water, drivers should turn around and find an alternative route.

* If you see that a roadway is closed, it’s closed for a reason and no one should be traveling on it.

* Drivers and Pool Vehicles
  - Roadway safety is simple if you follow the basics. Don’t drink and drive. Don’t drive distracted. Don’t exceed the posted speed. Always use your seat belt. And finally, don’t become another roadway statistic!
  - Thanks for everything you do as a representative of the State of South Dakota to drive safely.

* Roadway distraction is often to blame. In fact, according to the latest statistics for 2018, driver distraction accounted for over one thousand crashes in South Dakota. We all know some basic safety information whenever you get into a state vehicle. It is mandatory to buckle up for a very good reason. Nearly two-thirds of the roadway fatalities in our State happen to unbuckled drivers and passengers. Your odds of surviving an unexpected crash increase dramatically when you put a seat belt on. And let’s face it — all crashes are unexpected. Each year, the Office of Highway Safety conducts seat belt observational surveys. In 2018, 76.95% of the drivers and front seat passengers were observed to be buckled up. But that leaves roughly one-in-five drivers who choose not to use this important safety equipment. We can do better by insisting that everyone in the vehicle we are operating use their seat belts.

* The driver of the state vehicle is responsible for any cost incurred for parking or moving violations received while operating the vehicle.

* The tires of the vehicle may begin to ride on top of the water, drivers should turn around and find an alternative route.

* When using vehicles from the airport to travel, FTM has updated addresses for the EJ Ward fuel site locations which includes hyperlinks to Google Map for live directions*. This can be accessed by click this link or by going to the Fleet & Travel Management webpage.

* Make sure to fill up pool vehicles and drivers are required to buckle up for a very good reason. Nearly two-thirds of the roadway facilities in our State happen to unbuckled drivers and passengers. Your odds of surviving an unexpected crash increase dramatically when you put a seat belt on. And let’s face it — all crashes are unexpected. Each year, the Office of Highway Safety conducts seat belt observational surveys. In 2018, 76.95% of the drivers and front seat passengers were observed to be buckled up. But that leaves roughly one-in-five drivers who choose not to use this important safety equipment. We can do better by insisting that everyone in the vehicle we are operating use their seat belts.

* Call 605.773.3162 or 1.800.543.2372 for a work order prior to having work done. Per Fleet & Travel policy, FTM must authorize all repairs.

* The summer travel season is well underway. Tourists & relatives have driven great distances for graduation parties. And families are contemplating the long-distance vacations across the state and region. It is a wonderful ritual that repeats itself each year.

* Please make roadway safety a priority as you venture out of the office on business travel. State employees are some of the best drivers in South Dakota, but it never hurts to remember some basic safety information whenever you get into a state-owned vehicle. It is mandatory to buckle up for a very good reason. Nearly two-thirds of the roadway fatalities in our State happen to unbuckled drivers and passengers. Your odds of surviving an unexpected crash increase dramatically when you put a seat belt on. And let’s face it — all crashes are unexpected. Each year, the Office of Highway Safety conducts seat belt observational surveys. In 2018, 76.95% of the drivers and front seat passengers were observed to be buckled up. But that leaves roughly one-in-five drivers who choose not to use this important safety equipment. We can do better by insisting that everyone in the vehicle we are operating use their seat belts.

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* Check for the latest reports: https://www.safetytravelaks.com/EJ or call 511.