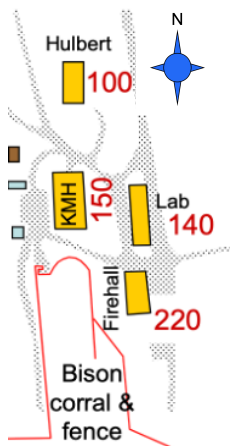


Konza Prairie: SAFETY TIPS

How to **stay safe** during your time at the Konza Prairie Biological Station

HEADQUARTERS MAP:

- Each building has a unique number so emergency vehicles can find them.
- KMH = Konza Meeting Hall – Stone Barn
- Hulbert = Stone House



TICKS:

- Ticks are the most dangerous biting animal at Konza. To avoid them wear long-sleeved shirts that are tucked into long pants. Tuck your pant legs into your socks or boots to keep ticks from crawling up your legs. Spray your legs and arms with insect repellent.
- Check yourself for ticks thoroughly at the end of the field day.

FIRST AID:



First Aid kits available here:

- Shop/Fire Hall
- Hulbert Center (Stone House)
- Hokanson Homestead shed (off the Nature Trail)

In an emergency:

- Call 911
- If you are in the field, try to get to headquarters or notify someone at headquarters. Emergency crews do NOT know how to get out into the field, and they will need assistance.



TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

- Check the weather and be prepared for any sort of situation. Always bring rain gear with you.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Hats and sunglasses are always a good idea.
- **Water** (always) and snacks (usually) are wise components to a field bag.
- Water and restrooms are available at HQ at the Stone Barn and the Ecology Lab.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:



- If the weather looks stormy, keep an eye on it. Be prepared to leave, if necessary.
- Do **NOT** stay in the field if there is lightning nearby.
- **Tornado Watch** = conditions are conducive to tornadic weather – monitor closely.
- **Tornado Warning** = a tornado has been sighted nearby. Immediately come to headquarters and shelter:
 - Basement of the Hulbert Center
 - Storm shelter just west of the Cottages
 - No time to travel? Find a ditch or the lowest ground possible, lie flat on your stomach. DO NOT shelter near or under trees, metal rails, fences, or your field vehicle; these may move in a tornado.



BISON

- While the bison herd at Konza is accustomed to people and cars, the animals are NOT tame.
- Do NOT approach them or try to touch them – ESPECIALLY during calving in the spring.
- NEVER get between a cow and her calf.
- Bulls may be aggressive during the rut, which is in July and August.
- Always be aware of your proximity to the bison. Maintain easy access (< 400 m or ¼ mile) to your vehicle at all times in case you need to run to safety.
- If bison are congregated near a gate you are trying to enter, **turn around** and use a different gate to reach your destination.
- If you see any bison out of the fenced bison area contact Patrick O'Neal, or Jeff Taylor (contact info on back of sheet).



DRIVING ON KONZA:

The speed limit on Konza is 20 mph.

For GRAVEL Roads:

- If the roads are wet STAY ON THE GRAVEL at all times. Do NOT drive on wet grass.
- If there are puddles in the gravel road drive through them (slowly). Do not attempt to drive around puddles.

For FIRE GUARDS/Grass Roads:

- Do NOT drive on these surfaces if the ground is wet.
- If the ground is dry, but there are puddles in the fire guard, GO AROUND the puddles. Puddles in the prairie will be exacerbated by continued impaction from vehicles and are impossible to repair.

Mechanical issues:

- If you experience mechanical trouble or a flat tire, repair it yourself if possible.
- There is an air compressor and tools available at the Fire House.
- Contact the Fire House – 785-539-1961 – for mechanical issues beyond your ability.
- If you get stuck, call the Fire House (but please avoid getting stuck if you can).



FIRE ON KONZA:

- NO SMOKING – ANYWHERE ON KONZA – *ever*
- Hot vehicles can spark a fire. Park in the shortest grass available.
- If you spot a wildfire report it immediately (refer to the CODE ORANGE sheet).



SHOP/TOOL USE:

A shop with metal and wood-working tools is available at HQ for use by researchers.

- You must undergo training in tool use and safety before beginning work.
- Contact Patrick O'Neal



STRANGERS ON KONZA?

- Konza Prairie is a busy place! At any one time it may be populated with researchers and student technicians, college classes, docent volunteers, adult groups, and tours with children. Any of these groups may have a valid reason for being on Konza Prairie.
- However, due to the presence of the public **Nature Trail** there are people who stray off the trail and enter the research area without permission.
- **IF you see someone** and are unsure whether or not they should be there, we would appreciate you checking.

Here are the simple steps to check:

- Drive up to them and ask “**Hi, are you a researcher here on Konza?**”
- If they don't have a valid reason for being there you may:
 - Point them the direction to get back on the public trail.
 - Provide them with a ride to get back to the public trail or parking area.
 - Call anyone in the Konza Contacts list and we'll go out and speak with them.



CONTACTS:

Fire Hall/Shop: 785-539-1961
(try to contact personnel below before calling Shop)

Patrick O'Neal	785-477-2347
Peyton Thorell	785-656-2810

Hulbert Center:

Barb Van Slyke	785-587-0441
Jill Haukos	785-587-0381
Monica Shaffer	785-587-0381

Bison Manager:

Jeff Taylor	785-640-0934
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Join Konza-L listserv for announcements:

- E-mail listserv@listserv.ksu.edu
- No subject
- Body of the message:
"subscribe KONZA-L"