

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTE: The five-year totals and county breakdown of crashes are at the end of the release.**

# Deer-vehicle crashes increase in fall

Mating season and the quest for more secure habitat have deer on the move at this time of year, increasing the chances of vehicle collisions.

Typically, the greatest occurrence of deer-vehicle crashes is in mid-November when the rut, or mating season, peaks.

“In addition to the rut, deer are also on the move in mid-fall seeking new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs, leaving them less secure than in their summer habitats,” said Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism biologist Lloyd Fox.

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation, 15 percent of Kansas crashes last year were deer-related (crashes in which a deer and vehicle actually collided or the presence of a deer was a contributing circumstance). Although crashes involving deer occur throughout the year in every Kansas county, the highest number of crashes typically occur where there are the most vehicles. Sedgwick County had 422 deer-vehicle crashes in 2014, the most of any county.

The Kansas Highway Patrol cautions drivers to avoid taking extra-ordinary measures to avoid striking a deer in the road, lest a bad situation become even worse.

“If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your car, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid it,” said the KHP’s Lt. Adam Winters. “Often we find more serious crashes occur when you swerve in avoidance.”

Other tips to avoid deer collisions include:

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active.
- Watch for more than one deer, as they seldom travel alone.
- Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water sources such as streams or ponds.
- Deer crossing signs show where high levels of deer/vehicle crashes have occurred in the past.
- Use your bright lights to help you detect deer as far ahead as possible.
- Always wear a seat belt and use appropriate child safety seats. Even if you are waiting in your car, it is best to wear your seat belt, and have your children in car seats.

If you do hit a deer, here are some additional tips:

- Don’t worry about the animal. Law enforcement will arrange to have the animal removed from the road when they arrive. Tell law enforcement dispatch if the deer is still in the road when reporting the crash call.
- If possible, remain in the vehicle, and remain buckled up, protecting yourself in the event there is a secondary crash involving another vehicle.
- If you must be outside your vehicle, stand as far off the road as possible; make sure hazard lights are activated; don’t stand between your vehicle and another vehicle; and make sure children are kept properly restrained in your vehicle.
- If you hit a deer, slow down, pull onto the shoulder and turn on the emergency flashers.

To report a crash on Kansas highways from a cellular phone, call \*47 (\*HP) for a highway patrol dispatcher or \*582 (\*KTA) for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike. The crash can also be reported by dialing 911.

**Statewide and county deer statistics are below in two charts.**

## STATEWIDE DEER ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
ALLEN	2014	117	0	7	110	0	7
ANDERSON	2014	88	0	5	83	0	5
ATCHISON	2014	65	0	0	65	0	0
BARBER	2014	73	0	2	71	0	2
BARTON	2014	190	0	8	182	0	14
BOURBON	2014	125	0	3	122	0	3
BROWN	2014	97	0	1	96	0	1
BUTLER	2014	359	0	23	336	0	30
CHASE	2014	34	0	1	33	0	1
CHAUTAUQUA	2014	30	0	0	30	0	0
CHEROKEE	2014	204	0	4	200	0	4
CHEYENNE	2014	14	0	1	13	0	1
CLARK	2014	11	0	0	11	0	0
CLAY	2014	86	0	5	81	0	5
CLOUD	2014	78	0	1	77	0	1
COFFEY	2014	118	0	2	116	0	2
COMANCHE	2014	2	0	0	2	0	0
COWLEY	2014	231	0	14	217	0	15
CRAWFORD	2014	210	0	9	201	0	13
DECATUR	2014	5	0	1	4	0	1
DICKINSON	2014	132	0	5	127	0	5
DONIPHAN	2014	41	0	0	41	0	0
DOUGLAS	2014	198	0	11	187	0	13
EDWARDS	2014	20	0	2	18	0	2
ELK	2014	22	0	0	22	0	0
ELLIS	2014	121	0	7	114	0	9
ELLSWORTH	2014	121	0	2	119	0	2
FINNEY	2014	36	0	1	35	0	1
FORD	2014	64	0	2	62	0	3
FRANKLIN	2014	131	0	3	128	0	3
GEARY	2014	134	0	8	126	0	8

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County	Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
GOVE	2014	14	0	2	12	0	2
GRAHAM	2014	57	0	0	57	0	0
GRANT	2014	13	0	0	13	0	0
GRAY	2014	22	0	1	21	0	1
GREELEY	2014	5	0	0	5	0	0
GREENWOOD	2014	77	0	3	74	0	6
HAMILTON	2014	6	0	1	5	0	1
HARPER	2014	91	0	2	89	0	2
HARVEY	2014	119	0	9	110	0	10
HASKELL	2014	2	0	1	1	0	1
HODGEMAN	2014	19	0	0	19	0	0
JACKSON	2014	117	2	5	110	2	6
JEFFERSON	2014	121	0	5	116	0	5
JEWELL	2014	35	0	1	34	0	1
JOHNSON	2014	323	0	23	300	0	30
KEARNY	2014	20	0	0	20	0	0
KINGMAN	2014	133	0	5	128	0	7
KIOWA	2014	21	0	0	21	0	0
LABETTE	2014	156	0	8	148	0	9
LANE	2014	3	0	1	2	0	1
LEAVENWORTH	2014	220	0	8	212	0	8
LINCOLN	2014	45	0	2	43	0	2
LINN	2014	91	0	3	88	0	3
LOGAN	2014	9	0	1	8	0	2
LYON	2014	204	0	10	194	0	13
MARION	2014	101	0	3	98	0	4
MARSHALL	2014	79	0	2	77	0	2
MCPHERSON	2014	171	0	5	166	0	6
MEADE	2014	16	0	0	16	0	0
MIAMI	2014	208	0	9	199	0	11
MITCHELL	2014	69	0	1	68	0	1

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County	Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
MONTGOMERY	2014	159	0	5	154	0	5
MORRIS	2014	52	0	2	50	0	3
MORTON	2014	5	0	0	5	0	0
NEMAHA	2014	53	0	3	50	0	3
NEOSHO	2014	160	0	5	155	0	7
NESS	2014	29	0	2	27	0	3
NORTON	2014	123	0	6	117	0	6
OSAGE	2014	131	0	7	124	0	8
OSBORNE	2014	55	0	0	55	0	0
OTTAWA	2014	79	0	4	75	0	4
PAWNEE	2014	117	0	4	113	0	4
PHILLIPS	2014	42	0	2	40	0	2
POTTAWATOMIE	2014	152	0	8	144	0	8
PRATT	2014	58	0	3	55	0	4
RAWLINS	2014	8	0	0	8	0	0
RENO	2014	240	0	23	217	0	25
REPUBLIC	2014	34	0	0	34	0	0
RICE	2014	100	0	7	93	0	7
RILEY	2014	172	0	17	155	0	24
ROOKS	2014	114	0	2	112	0	2
RUSH	2014	85	0	3	82	0	5
RUSSELL	2014	88	0	2	86	0	2
SALINE	2014	109	0	5	104	0	7
SCOTT	2014	13	0	0	13	0	0
SEDGWICK	2014	422	0	29	393	0	38
SEWARD	2014	18	0	0	18	0	0
SHAWNEE	2014	270	0	14	256	0	18
SHERIDAN	2014	20	0	2	18	0	2
SHERMAN	2014	22	0	2	20	0	2
SMITH	2014	67	0	1	66	0	2
STAFFORD	2014	98	0	7	91	0	7

## STATEWIDE DEER ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
STEVENS	2014	7	0	0	7	0	0
SUMNER	2014	174	0	7	167	0	11
THOMAS	2014	40	0	1	39	0	1
TREGO	2014	48	0	1	47	0	1
WABAUNSEE	2014	79	0	7	72	0	10
WALLACE	2014	1	0	0	1	0	0
WASHINGTON	2014	116	0	5	111	0	5
WICHITA	2014	9	0	1	8	0	1
WILSON	2014	100	0	6	94	0	7
WOODSON	2014	46	0	0	46	0	0
WYANDOTTE	2014	168	0	14	154	0	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,607</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>533</b>

\*PDO - Property Damage Only

Data as of 10/6/2015

## MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT SUMMARY Statewide Deer Accidents

Year	ACCIDENTS				PEOPLE	
	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
2010	10,232	5	463	9,764	5	555
2011	10,152	2	434	9,716	2	524
2012	9,738	4	475	9,259	4	556
2013	9,165	9	429	8,727	9	528
2014	9,607	2	446	9,159	2	533
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,894</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>46,625</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,696</b>

\*PDO- Property Damage Only Accidents

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.  
For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the KDOT Office of Public Affairs,  
700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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