

NEWS RELEASE – October 2, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEER-VEHICLE CRASHES INCREASE IN FALL

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

Typically, the greatest number of deer-vehicle crashes are 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 food sources and shelter as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs, leaving them less secure than in their summer habitats.

“The deer population has stabilized over the last five years, so areas that have had deer likely still have them,” said Levi Jaster, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Big Game Coordinator. “Young animals are dispersing to find new areas and breeding season is approaching. More animals moving means more of them are going to be crossing roads, so be extra cautious and reduce speed, especially in areas with good deer habitat.”

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation, 10,235 (16 percent) of the 62,150 vehicle crashes reported in 2016 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. Butler County had 385 deer-vehicle crashes in 2016, the most of any county, while Sedgwick County followed with 375 deer-vehicle crashes.

The Kansas Highway Patrol cautions drivers to refrain from making exaggerated maneuvers to avoid 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 to miss the deer, potentially losing control of your vehicle, leaving the road or veering into oncoming traffic.”

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MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY

Statewide Deer Crashes

Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
2012	9,740	4	475	9,261	4	556
2013	9,176	9	429	8,738	9	528
2014	9,628	2	448	9,178	2	535
2015	10,084	7	460	9,617	8	531
2016	10,242	7	499	9,736	7	597
Total	48,870	29	2,311	46,530	30	2,747

*PDO- Property Damage Only Crashes

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY

STATEWIDE DEER CRASHES BY COUNTY

County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
ALLEN	2016	109	0	8	101	0	13
ANDERSON	2016	87	0	2	85	0	2
ATCHISON	2016	68	0	1	67	0	1
BARBER	2016	70	0	2	68	0	3
BARTON	2016	193	0	10	183	0	12
BOURBON	2016	57	0	8	49	0	9
BROWN	2016	93	0	3	90	0	3
BUTLER	2016	385	1	24	360	1	31
CHASE	2016	47	0	3	44	0	3
CHAUTAUQUA	2016	27	0	0	27	0	0
CHEROKEE	2016	218	0	8	210	0	9
CHEYENNE	2016	12	0	2	10	0	2
CLARK	2016	20	0	2	18	0	2
CLAY	2016	132	0	3	129	0	3
CLOUD	2016	77	0	6	71	0	6
COFFEY	2016	157	0	4	153	0	4
COMANCHE	2016	2	0	0	2	0	0
COWLEY	2016	293	1	15	277	1	17
CRAWFORD	2016	204	0	9	195	0	10
DECATUR	2016	5	0	0	5	0	0
DICKINSON	2016	109	0	7	102	0	7
DONIPHAN	2016	27	0	2	25	0	2
DOUGLAS	2016	262	0	14	248	0	14
EDWARDS	2016	27	0	1	26	0	1
ELK	2016	20	1	0	19	1	0
ELLIS	2016	106	0	5	101	0	6
ELLSWORTH	2016	106	0	3	103	0	3
FINNEY	2016	56	0	3	53	0	3

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STATEWIDE DEER CRASHES BY COUNTY

County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
FORD	2016	69	0	1	68	0	1
FRANKLIN	2016	146	0	18	128	0	20
GEARY	2016	141	0	14	127	0	18
GOVE	2016	23	0	1	22	0	1
GRAHAM	2016	69	0	0	69	0	0
GRANT	2016	24	0	2	22	0	2
GRAY	2016	27	0	0	27	0	0
GREELEY	2016	6	0	0	6	0	0
GREENWOOD	2016	62	0	3	59	0	3
HAMILTON	2016	8	0	0	8	0	0
HARPER	2016	123	0	8	115	0	10
HARVEY	2016	114	0	6	108	0	7
HASKELL	2016	8	0	0	8	0	0
HODGEMAN	2016	9	0	1	8	0	1
JACKSON	2016	121	0	7	114	0	9
JEFFERSON	2016	138	0	7	131	0	7
JEWELL	2016	50	0	4	46	0	4
JOHNSON	2016	371	0	36	335	0	39
KEARNY	2016	18	0	2	16	0	2
KINGMAN	2016	140	0	5	135	0	5
KIOWA	2016	23	0	1	22	0	2
LABETTE	2016	165	0	11	154	0	14
LANE	2016	6	0	1	5	0	1
LEAVENWORTH	2016	190	0	11	179	0	12
LINCOLN	2016	63	0	1	62	0	1
LINN	2016	113	0	2	111	0	2
LOGAN	2016	16	0	2	14	0	2
LYON	2016	249	0	9	240	0	15

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MARION	2016	125	0	3	122	0	3
MARSHALL	2016	77	0	1	76	0	1
MCPHERSON	2016	164	0	5	159	0	8
MEADE	2016	22	0	0	22	0	0
MIAMI	2016	216	0	15	201	0	21
MITCHELL	2016	72	0	1	71	0	2
MONTGOMERY	2016	233	0	2	231	0	3
MORRIS	2016	46	0	1	45	0	1
MORTON	2016	4	0	0	4	0	0
NEMAHA	2016	74	0	1	73	0	2
NEOSHO	2016	165	0	8	157	0	10
NESS	2016	30	0	1	29	0	1
NORTON	2016	111	0	0	111	0	0
OSAGE	2016	123	0	8	115	0	15
OSBORNE	2016	64	0	3	61	0	3
OTTAWA	2016	61	0	5	56	0	5
PAWNEE	2016	109	0	3	106	0	3
PHILLIPS	2016	40	0	2	38	0	2
POTTAWATOMIE	2016	167	0	10	157	0	12
PRATT	2016	72	0	2	70	0	2
RAWLINS	2016	9	0	2	7	0	2
RENO	2016	327	0	13	314	0	16
REPUBLIC	2016	74	0	3	71	0	3
RICE	2016	143	0	9	134	0	10
RILEY	2016	174	0	7	167	0	10
ROOKS	2016	110	1	2	107	1	3
RUSH	2016	118	0	3	115	0	3
RUSSELL	2016	127	1	3	123	1	6

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY STATEWIDE DEER CRASHES BY COUNTY

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		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
SALINE	2016	158	0	11	147	0	15
SCOTT	2016	4	0	1	3	0	1
SEDGWICK	2016	382	0	20	362	0	24
SEWARD	2016	28	0	0	28	0	0
SHAWNEE	2016	270	0	20	250	0	22
SHERIDAN	2016	24	0	1	23	0	2
SHERMAN	2016	17	0	0	17	0	0
SMITH	2016	56	0	1	55	0	1
STAFFORD	2016	95	2	5	88	2	7
STANTON	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUMNER	2016	189	0	6	183	0	7
STEVENS	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
THOMAS	2016	37	0	3	34	0	5
TREGO	2016	50	0	1	49	0	2
WABAUNSEE	2016	78	0	5	73	0	6
WALLACE	2016	2	0	1	1	0	1
WASHINGTON	2016	118	0	2	116	0	2
WICHITA	2016	9	0	0	9	0	0
WILSON	2016	81	0	5	76	0	5
WOODSON	2016	38	0	1	37	0	1
WYANDOTTE	2016	88	0	5	83	0	5
Total		10,242	7	499	9,736	7	597