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Deer-vehicle collisions highest in fall

The Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and AAA Kansas are working together this fall to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

While deer can be spotted near roadways any time of the year, motorists should be especially vigilant in the fall for deer crossing roadways due to the “rut,” or mating season – a time when deer are frequently on the move and at all hours of the day.

“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 KHP Lieutenant Candice Breshears. “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.”

Eight people were killed and 556 people were injured in deer-vehicle crashes on Kansas roadways in 2019.

“In addition to potentially causing human injuries and loss of life, deer collisions often cause significant vehicle damage that can lead to large expenses for the vehicle owner if not properly insured,” said Shawn Steward, Public and Government Affairs Manager for AAA Kansas. “Of the animal strikes reported by AAA Insurance policy holders between 2016 and 2019, the average cost per claim was nearly \$4,500.”

If a driver has a collision, they should move their vehicle to the shoulder, if possible, and call law enforcement - KHP dispatch at *47, the Kansas Turnpike at *KTA and local law enforcement at 911.

The agencies recommend the following to help motorists avoid crashes with deer:

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk, when deer are more active.



- If you see one deer, watch for others, as they seldom travel alone.
- Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces, such as parks and golf courses, and near water sources such as streams and ponds.
- Deer crossing signs show areas where high numbers of vehicle/deer crashes have occurred in the past. Heed these warnings.
- Use bright lights when there is no oncoming traffic and scan the road ahead of you to watch for deer.
- Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer—the most serious crashes sometimes occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle.
- Always wear a seat belt and use appropriately-fitted child safety seats—they are your best defense should you be involved in a crash.
- Honk your horn with one long blast. A long blast on your horn may frighten large animals, such as deer, away from your vehicle. The Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.) advises against relying on devices such as deer whistles and reflectors, which have not been proven to reduce collisions with animals.

Anyone involved in a deer-vehicle crash resulting in personal injury or property damage that totals \$1,000 or more is required to immediately report the crash to the nearest law enforcement agency. Failure to report any traffic crash is a misdemeanor and may result in suspension of driving privileges.

A salvage tag is required to remove a deer carcass, or any part of the carcass, from the crash site. Tags can be issued by KHP troopers, sheriff's deputies or KDWPT game wardens.

Below are graphs showing statewide statistics on deer/vehicle crashes.

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

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:



Data as of 10/9/2020

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY

Statewide Deer Crashes

Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
2010	10,232	5	463	9,764	5	555
2011	10,162	2	436	9,724	2	527
2012	9,741	4	475	9,262	4	556
2013	9,180	9	430	8,741	9	529
2014	9,631	2	449	9,180	2	536
2015	10,099	7	461	9,631	8	532
2016	10,336	7	506	9,823	7	604
2017	10,378	6	492	9,880	8	588
2018	10,740	3	505	10,232	3	593
2019	11,073	4	466	10,603	8	556
Total	101,572	49	4,683	96,840	56	5,576

*PDO- Property Damage Only Crashes



STWD Deer Accs_2010-2019_tkh.xlsx



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY

Statewide Deer Crashes by County

County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
BUTLER	2019	492	0	18	474	0	20
SEDGWICK	2019	415	0	19	396	0	25
SHAWNEE	2019	387	0	23	364	0	24
JOHNSON	2019	370	1	24	345	2	33
DOUGLAS	2019	307	0	11	296	0	12
RENO	2019	281	0	10	271	0	12
MIAMI	2019	269	0	24	245	0	28
COWLEY	2019	252	0	10	242	0	12
MONTGOMERY	2019	246	0	5	241	0	5
LEAVENWORTH	2019	244	0	10	234	0	11
LYON	2019	233	0	6	227	0	6
BARTON	2019	219	0	0	219	0	0
POTTAWATOMIE	2019	209	0	15	194	0	20
CRAWFORD	2019	206	0	8	198	0	9
SUMNER	2019	204	0	13	191	0	15
RILEY	2019	200	0	13	187	0	13
NEOSHO	2019	199	0	5	194	0	5
JEFFERSON	2019	193	0	13	180	0	13
MCPHERSON	2019	190	0	8	182	0	11
GEARY	2019	180	0	21	159	0	23
COFFEY	2019	179	0	5	174	0	6
LABETTE	2019	179	0	10	169	0	14
MARION	2019	171	0	3	168	0	5
KINGMAN	2019	165	0	5	160	0	6
CHEROKEE	2019	164	0	4	160	0	5
SALINE	2019	157	0	10	147	0	14
DICKINSON	2019	149	0	5	144	0	5
JACKSON	2019	147	0	3	144	0	5
HARVEY	2019	145	0	7	138	0	8
BOURBON	2019	126	0	4	122	0	7
ELLSWORTH	2019	120	0	7	113	0	7

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County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
LINN	2019	120	0	2	118	0	3
STAFFORD	2019	119	0	1	118	0	1
WYANDOTTE	2019	118	0	8	110	0	10
ALLEN	2019	117	0	8	109	0	8
ELLIS	2019	114	0	5	109	0	6
RICE	2019	114	0	5	109	0	5
WILSON	2019	114	1	6	107	3	7
ATCHISON	2019	113	0	3	110	0	4
FRANKLIN	2019	113	1	7	105	1	12
WABAUNSEE	2019	111	0	5	106	0	5
PAWNEE	2019	107	0	4	103	0	5
WASHINGTON	2019	103	0	2	101	0	2
ANDERSON	2019	95	0	2	93	0	2
BARBER	2019	95	1	1	93	2	1
REPUBLIC	2019	95	0	5	90	0	5
HARPER	2019	91	0	3	88	0	3
MITCHELL	2019	91	0	1	90	0	2
MARSHALL	2019	89	0	3	86	0	3
PRATT	2019	89	0	4	85	0	4
CLAY	2019	88	0	0	88	0	0
BROWN	2019	87	0	5	82	0	5
FORD	2019	85	0	2	83	0	2
CLOUD	2019	84	0	1	83	0	1
NEMAHA	2019	84	0	3	81	0	3
RUSSELL	2019	84	0	2	82	0	2
MORRIS	2019	83	0	3	80	0	3
RUSH	2019	80	0	2	78	0	2
OTTAWA	2019	79	0	2	77	0	3
NORTON	2019	78	0	4	74	0	5
GREENWOOD	2019	77	0	1	76	0	1
ROOKS	2019	76	0	1	75	0	2

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SUMMARY

Statewide Deer Crashes by County

County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
LINCOLN	2019	74	0	3	71	0	3
WOODSON	2019	69	0	4	65	0	4
OSAGE	2019	68	0	3	65	0	3
SMITH	2019	49	0	0	49	0	0
KIOWA	2019	47	0	1	46	0	1
FINNEY	2019	44	0	2	42	0	2
OSBORNE	2019	43	0	0	43	0	0
CHASE	2019	41	0	2	39	0	2
HODGEMAN	2019	39	0	2	37	0	3
CHAUTAUQUA	2019	37	0	4	33	0	5
ELK	2019	37	0	0	37	0	0
GRAHAM	2019	36	0	0	36	0	0
THOMAS	2019	34	0	2	32	0	4
TREGO	2019	34	0	1	33	0	1
EDWARDS	2019	33	0	1	32	0	1
JEWELL	2019	32	0	1	31	0	1
GRAY	2019	29	0	1	28	0	1
NESS	2019	28	0	0	28	0	0
KEARNY	2019	27	0	2	25	0	2
SHERIDAN	2019	27	0	1	26	0	1
GOVE	2019	22	0	1	21	0	1
HAMILTON	2019	22	0	1	21	0	1
PHILLIPS	2019	21	0	3	18	0	5
LOGAN	2019	19	0	1	18	0	3
COMANCHE	2019	18	0	1	17	0	1
GRANT	2019	18	0	0	18	0	0
SHERMAN	2019	18	0	0	18	0	0
SEWARD	2019	17	0	0	17	0	0
DONIPHAN	2019	16	0	2	14	0	3
CLARK	2019	12	0	0	12	0	0
SCOTT	2019	12	0	0	12	0	0

**MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH
SUMMARY**
**Statewide Deer Crashes by
County**

County	Year	CRASHES				PEOPLE	
		Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Deaths	Injuries
MORTON	2019	11	0	3	8	0	6
CHEYENNE	2019	8	0	0	8	0	0
HASKELL	2019	8	0	0	8	0	0
LANE	2019	8	0	0	8	0	0
WICHITA	2019	7	0	0	7	0	0
WALLACE	2019	6	0	2	4	0	4
RAWLINS	2019	5	0	2	3	0	2
MEADE	2019	4	0	0	4	0	0
DECATUR	2019	1	0	0	1	0	0
GREELEY	2019	1	0	0	1	0	0
STANTON	2019	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEVENS	2019	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		11,073	4	466	10,603	8	556

*PDO - Property Damage Only