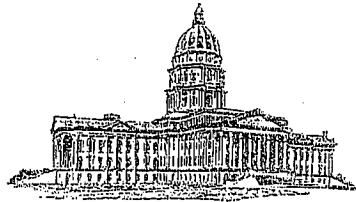


State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7689
joe.seiwert@house.ks.gov



Joe Seiwert
Representative, 101st District

COMMITTEES:

- Energy and Utilities
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Veterans, Military & Homeland Security
- Local Government
- Vision 2020

3/14/12

From: Representative Joe Seiwert, #101

To: Chairman Ostermeyer

Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee

The testimony that follows on the attached pages is submitted on HB 2295 concerning the number of accidents that have occurred due to collisions between cars and deer.



Powered by Clickability

Man Killed By Deer Through Windshield

Reporter: Elyse Molstad
Email Address: elyse.molstad@kake.com



Every year, nearly 10,000 automobile accidents in Kansas are deer-related. Three percent of those crashes are fatal. While some of these can be prevented, authorities say not much could have been done to prevent Wednesday night's tragedy.

[A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

A Scott City man was killed in western Kansas when a deer careened off another car and smashed through his windshield.

"It's just the fact the animal was there, it was struck and in this case it actually involved two vehicles instead of one," said KHP Trooper Ron Knoefel. □

Thirty-one-year-old Jason Kanak died Wednesday night after a deer hit by another vehicle flew into the windshield of his pickup truck on Highway 4 in Scott County. The State Highway Patrol says the deer went completely through the truck and out the back window.

Kanak's wife, Lisa, was able to grab the steering wheel and get the truck back onto the road after it swerved into a ditch. Lisa Kanak and the couple's 4-year-old son were taken to a Scott County hospital for possible injuries.

While accidents like this may be rare, Trooper Knoefel says they still happen.

"In many cases, we'll have crashes out here that make you wonder how in the world did it happen... but they do! It's a very low percent chance something like this would take place but it did, it did take place," Trooper Knoefel said.

While authorities say this accident could not have been prevented, other deer-related crashes can be, by constantly being on the lookout for deer while driving and lowering travel speed at night.

If you are confronted by a deer or any animal on the road, you should not swerve, but rather decelerate carefully and stay in your lane.



Two Fatal Accidents in Montgomery Co.

Posted: 10:27 AM Dec 15, 2007

Last Updated: 10:27 AM Dec 15, 2007

The Kansas Highway Patrol reports that two people died Friday in separate accidents on Kansas highways.



The first accident occurred on U69, just north of the U166 junction. 19-year-old Jarred Thomas of Coffeyville, Kan. was killed when he drove his SUV off of the road, overcorrected, then crossed the center line, hitting another vehicle.

Another accident occurred on U400 when a car hit a deer, which caused the car to go into the path of an oncoming semi. 37-year-old Shannon Sylvas of Independence, Kan. died from her injuries.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wibw.com/kakeheadlines/headlines/12532336.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Vehicle Safety Ratings
Fast & Easy Find. Resources for
Vehicle Safety Ratings
wnaiesdirect.com

Ads by Google

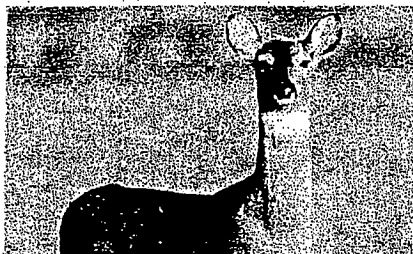
ADD THIS

Published online 10/21/2008 10:15 PM

Deer declare accident season

As animals get distracted by mating, bolt into road, Reno County wrecks pile up.

By Darcy Gray - The Hutchinson News - dgray@hutchnews.com



A cold front is moving in, and so are the deer, say law enforcement and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials.

The Reno County Sheriff's Office reported eight car accidents involving deer within a 24-hour period Monday and Tuesday. And so far this month, at least 26 accidents involving deer have been recorded in the county.

"They're just everywhere," said Reno County Sheriff's Capt. Wayne Baughman. "With the cool weather coming in over the next few days, I can foresee we'll have more deer moving in. Plus, the rut is going on."

October and November are when deer are most active, according to Lloyd Fox, the KDWP big game program coordinator working out of Emporia. It's mating season, called the "rut," when does and bucks have only one thing on their mind - and it's not motorists, Fox said.

He said each doe has only a 24-hour time period in which it can conceive for the whole year. That "window of opportunity" may come anytime from early October to late January.

"The vast majority will conceive in the middle of November, so there's a lot of activity going on in a short period of time," Fox said. "They're running all over the place, they're not getting much sleep, and they're not making good decisions, like when it comes to going across the road."

Nov. 17 is traditionally the "peak day" for car accidents involving deer, based on accident statistics from

the past 10 years, said Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Gary Warner. Over the past decade, there have been 727 crashes on Nov. 17.

"If you plot the number of crashes by day, there's almost a perfect bell curve plotted on a graph," he said, noting the peak on Nov. 17 likely coincides with the peak of deer rut activity.

Warner acknowledged Reno County is "one of the more popular counties for deer-related accidents," along with Stafford County, which reported 94 of its 175 car accidents last year involved deer.

In Kansas, there were 9,417 car accidents involving deer last year, with five fatalities - the highest number of deaths in 10 years.

Eight accidents in one day in Reno County is unusually high, Baughman acknowledged. He said there have been five injury accidents involving deer and one fatality in the county so far this year. Robert Crandall, 55, of Pretty Prairie, died in May after striking a deer with his motorcycle on Pretty Prairie Road.

Baughman said during this time of year, when deer activity is high, there is a greater risk for motorcyclists traveling at night.

"The best advice I have is to slow down and use your high beams at night if there's not any oncoming traffic," he said. "In the early evening and early morning hours is when they're moving pretty heavily out there."

Some spots in the county where there have been accidents involving deer include K-96, between Hutchinson and Wichita; East 30th Avenue, from Hutchinson to Buhler Road; and on North Plum.

Baughman encouraged drivers not to swerve to avoid hitting a deer, because a crash with an oncoming car or other object is likely to be more dangerous.

"The best thing to do, and I know this sounds bad, is not to swerve and just hit (the deer)," he said.

He also said drivers need to always be aware of their surroundings, be cautious in wooded areas and watch the side of the road for deer.

"If there's one, there'll be another, especially this time of year," Baughman said.

If you hit a deer ...

Pull over onto the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers and watch for traffic before exiting your vehicle. Do not try to remove a deer from the roadway unless you are sure it's dead; an injured deer could hurt you. If you have a cell phone, dial *47 (*HP) for the nearest Highway Patrol dispatcher or *KTA for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike.

Anyone involved in a car crash with a deer that results in injury or property damage that totals \$500 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 could result in suspension of driving privileges.

Avoiding collisions

Here are some tips from the Kansas Highway Patrol:

Toy Run rider dies after accident



By Tribune photo by Gale Rose

LifeTeam and Pratt County EMS members move 60-year-old Rodger House to the LifeTeam helicopter on US 54 for transport to St. Francis where he later died. House was injured when his motorcycle struck a deer while he was riding for Toys for Tots.

ADVERTISEMENT

SEE OUR INVENTORY!

Doug Reh
1501 E. FIRST ST.
PRATT, KS 67124 620-672-5633
WWW.DOUGREHCHEVROLET.COM

By Gale Rose
The Pratt Tribune
Mon Oct 06, 2008, 03:31 PM CDT

Pratt, Kan.

Pratt's Toys for Tots motorcycle run took a tragic turn Sunday when an Isabel rider died after his motorcycle hit a deer.

Rodger House, 60, died at around 7 p.m. from head injuries suffered in the accident, said Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Mark Crump.

House was southbound on a 2000 Honda on NE 100th Ave. one mile north of Cairo and U.S. 54 when the accident occurred at 1:55 p.m.

A buck deer came out of the west ditch and onto the blacktop. House could not avoid the deer. The bike struck the deer then slid several feet before coming to rest on the east side of the road. House was thrown from the motorcycle and stopped on the west side of the road. He was not wearing a helmet.

Another rider next to House was able to stop his bike and avoided the deer. Toys for Tots riders assisted House until Pratt County Ambulance arrived at the scene.

House was moved by ambulance one mile south to the intersection of NE 100th Ave. and US 54. Traffic was stopped and a LifeTeam helicopter landed in the intersection to take him to Via Christi St. Francis Campus in Wichita where he later died.

The deer was killed in the accident and was in a pasture on the east side of the road.

House was the only person involved in the accident. He was with a group of Toys For Tots Riders at the time of the accident. The riders were from various American Legion Posts and Gabriel's Thunder, a Christian motorcycle club.

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

Login

Register

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the [terms of use](#)

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"

Register

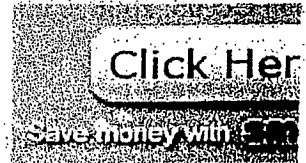


www.smarter.com

WEB BROWSING REDEFINED 

Purses

Check for the lowest price on Purses



Feedback - A