

Deer-vehicle collisions peak in November

COLLISIONS, from Page 1

cur when commuter traffic is highest. Steve Swartz, spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Transportation, there were 9,199 deer-vehicle collisions reported to the department in 2011, killing two people and injuring 297 others. Deer-vehicle collisions occur in every Kansas county, but counties with high human populations and high traffic volumes usually record the most deer-vehicle crashes; Sedgwick County recorded the most with 354, followed by Johnson County with 339 and Butler County with 250.

Motorists should observe the following tips to avoid deer collisions:

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active;
- Watch for more than one deer. They seldom travel alone, so if one crosses the road, others may follow;
- 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;

- Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the most serious accidents occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle;
- Heed deer crossing signs;
- Always wear a seat belt; and
- Use bright lights and slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted.

According to Kansas Highway Patrol Lieutenant Josh Kellerman, if you hit a deer, slow down and pull onto the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers, and watch for traffic if you have to exit your vehicle. If you have a cell phone and are on a Kansas highway, dial *47 (*HP) for a highway patrol dispatcher or *582 (*KTA) for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike, or dial 911.

Anyone involved in a vehicle-deer 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 from an accident site. Tags can be issued by highway patrol troopers, sheriff's deputies, or Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife natural resource officers.

People involved in a non-injury crash on an interstate, U.S. highway, or any divided or multi-lane road in the state of Kansas, and they are not transporting hazardous materials, are required by law to move their vehicle out of the lane of traffic. This law is intended to help keep drivers and passengers safe by getting them out of the lane of traffic and away from oncoming vehicles. Make sure you and your passengers are buckled up and are using the appropriate child safety seats, which are the best ways to prevent injuries or death should you be involved in a crash.

Responders to compete for blood drive donations

DRIVE, from Page 1

increase awareness about the need for blood. This annual event helps the Central Plains Blood Services Region maintain a steady blood supply for hospital patients."

All donors can vote for their favorite civil service. Votes will be tallied at the end of the drive and a trophy given to the winner. Donors will get a Battle of the Badges T-shirt.

This is the third year for the Battle of the Badges blood drive. The fire department won the first year and the ambulance service

won last year.

Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to donate. All blood types are needed. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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