

Motorist urged to use caution to avoid deer collisions

(KNZA)--Deer are more active this time of the fall. Crops are being harvested and deer breeding season is in full swing. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has suggestions to help drivers avoid deer-vehicle accidents and lessen the risk of injury or vehicle damage.

- **During the breeding season, bucks become more active searching for does. Bucks are bolder, less wary and more susceptible to collisions with vehicles. Deer movement peaks each day near dawn and dusk.**
- **Anticipate the possibility of a deer on the road and plan how to avoid a collision. Be prepared to stop suddenly but braking too sharply or swerving may cause you to lose control and roll your vehicle.**
- **Wear your seat belt.**
- **When driving near shelterbelts, woodlots or creeks, especially during evening or early morning, slow down and watch for deer. Keep your headlights on bright if there is no approaching traffic.**
- **When you spot a deer, assume there will be others in the same area.**
- **Deer often seem to be disoriented or confused by headlights. Some react by freezing in the light, some dart into the path of the vehicle and others bolt away. Honk your horn and flash your headlights to frighten deer away. If there is other traffic on the road, activate your emergency flashers and tap your brakes to alert other drivers to the potential danger.**
- **Many places where deer-vehicle collisions occur are posted with deer crossing signs.**
- **If a deer is struck, the driver may take possession of the deer, then must contact the Game and Parks within 24 hours and have 48 hours to receive a salvage tag from a conservation officer or designee. See list of conservation officers at OutdoorNebraska.gov/ConservationOfficers.**