

KWORDS *from* KWORCC

Watch Out for Deer!

a message from the Kansas Insurance Department



Steadily rising numbers in Kansas vehicle accidents involving deer have prompted a need for constant defensive driving this fall, according to Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance.

More than 200 additional deer-vehicle accidents occurred on Kansas roads during 2007 than in 2006, according to statistics from the Kansas Department of Transportation. The total for all deer accidents during the year was 9,417, compared to 9,197 in 2006.

Those 2007 accidents resulted in the deaths of five people and injuries to 298; those are also higher numbers than the year before.

"A frightening reality of driving on Kansas roads and highways this time of year is the possibility of an unexpected encounter with a deer," said Commissioner Praeger. "I urge Kansans to drive cautiously, especially around sunrise and sunset."

Statistically, one in every 100 drivers nationally is likely to have a collision with a deer at some time during their driving years. Mid-fall and mid-spring are likely times of the year for deer to be seen on roadways, because of breeding habits during the fall and growth of vegetation during the spring.

Commissioner Praeger urges motorists to check with their insurance agents to find out the type of vehicle accident damage coverage their policies have. Then, if a deer accident occurs, a policyholder should contact his or her insurance agent or company quickly to begin the claims process.

"With the cost of repairs climbing every year, Kansans are smart consumers when they review their vehicle coverages on a regular basis," Commissioner Praeger said.

To help avoid deer-vehicle collisions, Commissioner Praeger suggests the following:

- ◆ Stay alert, always wear your seat belt and drive at a safe, sensible speed for conditions.
- ◆ Watch for the reflection of deer eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulder of the road.
- ◆ Do not rely exclusively on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer.
- ◆ When driving at night, use high-beam headlights when there is no opposing traffic. The high beams will illuminate the eyes of deer on or near a roadway.
- ◆ Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, *but stay in your lane*. Many serious accidents occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit other vehicles or lose control of their cars. Potentially, you will risk less injury by hitting the deer.
- ◆ If the deer stays on the road, stop on the shoulder, put on your hazard lights and wait for the deer to leave the roadway; do not try to go around the deer while it is on the road.
- ◆ If you do hit a deer and are uncertain whether the animal is dead, keep your distance. You are dealing with an injured, wild animal with sharp hooves that can inflict serious bodily injury.
- ◆ If the deer is blocking the roadway and poses a danger to other motorists, you should immediately report the incident to the local law enforcement agency.

"These tips show defensive driving at its best," Commissioner Praeger said. "Practicing them in our vehicles will help keep us from personal injury and vehicle damage."

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CLAIMS REPORTING

For assistance with on-the-job injuries, contact IMA at 1-800-333-8913. Questions on claims should be directed to Annette Duncan. All correspondence, bills or other documentation for your claims can be mailed to Annette's attention at: 250 North Water, PO Box 2992, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

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**Good Hygiene Practices:
 Reducing the Spread of Infections and Viruses**

Colder weather is approaching and that means we will all be spending more time indoors in close contact with our friends, family and co-workers. Now is a good time to brush up on every day practices that can help prevent the spread of common cold weather diseases.

What can I do to reduce the spread of "germs"?

The most important way to reduce the spread of infections is hand washing - always wash regularly with soap and warm water. Also important is to get a vaccine for those infections and viruses that have one, when available.

What are good practices to slow the spread of infections?

Ways you can reduce or slow the spread of infections include:

- ◆ get the appropriate vaccine
- ◆ wash your hands frequently
- ◆ stay home if you are sick (so you do not spread it to other people)
- ◆ cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing (or cough into your elbow)
- ◆ use single-use tissues for wiping your nose
- ◆ wash your hands after coughing, sneezing or using tissues
- ◆ if working with children, have them play with hard surface toys that can be easily cleaned
- ◆ do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth (viruses can transfer from your hands and into the body)
- ◆ do not share cups, glasses, dishes or cutlery.

What can a workplace do?

Workplaces can help by:

- ◆ having an infection control plan
- ◆ providing clean hand washing facilities
- ◆ offering waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers when regular facilities are not available (or to people on the road)
- ◆ providing boxes of tissues and encourage their use
- ◆ reminding staff to not share cups, glasses, dishes and cutlery. Be sure dishes are washed in soap and water after use.
- ◆ removing magazines and papers from waiting areas or common rooms (such as tea rooms and kitchens)
- ◆ considering cleaning a person's workstation or other areas where they have been if a person has suspected or identified influenza
- ◆ making sure ventilation systems are working properly.



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More Good Hygiene Practices

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If cleaning is necessary, how should it be done?

Additional measures may be required during a pandemic to minimize the virus from transmitting by hard surfaces (sinks, door and cupboard handles, railings, objects, counters, etc). While a minor “mode of transmission” (way of spreading), influenza viruses can live on hard surfaces for up to 2 days.

In most workplaces and homes, cleaning floors, walls, doorknobs, etc with soap and water is very adequate. In some workplaces, such as a hospital or health care facility, further cleaning can be done with the following:

- ◆ bleach solution of 1 to 100 (1 part bleach in 99 parts tap water). This solution is effective for material contaminated with blood and body fluids. It should be used in well ventilated areas, and wear gloves and goggles especially when pouring or where there is a risk of splashing. Do not mix with ammonia or soaps containing ammonia (will react and form chlorine gas). Bleach is corrosive to metals.
- ◆ Alcohol (70% ethanol) can be used on smooth metal surfaces, tabletops, etc where bleach cannot be used. Use with care as it is flammable and toxic. Follow safe procedures as listed on the MSDS or the manufacturers instructions. Keep away from heat sources, electrical equipment, flames and hot surfaces. Allow to completely dry.

What is meant by social distancing?

Social distancing is a strategy where you try to avoid crowded places, large gatherings of people or close contact with a group of people. In these situations, viruses can easily spread from person to person. In general, a distance of one metre (3 feet) will slow the spread of a disease, but more distance is more effective.

Should social distancing be recommended, steps to follow include:

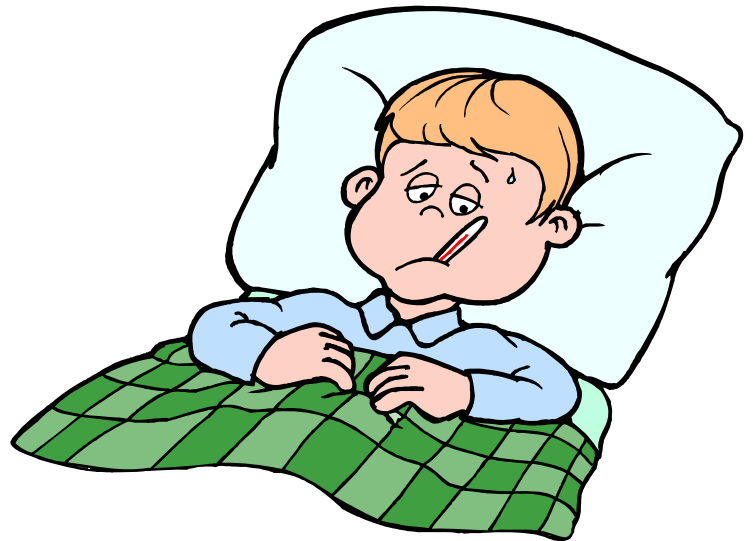
- ◆ Use telephone, video conferencing, or the internet to conduct as much business as possible (including within the same building)
- ◆ Cancel or postpone any travel, meetings, workshops, etc. that are not absolutely necessary

- ◆ Drive, walk or cycle to work, but try to avoid public transit.
- ◆ Allow staff to eat at their desks or have staggered lunch hours to avoid crowded lunch rooms.
- ◆ When meetings are necessary, have the meeting in a larger room where people can sit with more space between them (at least about one metre apart). Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
- ◆ Encourage staff to avoid social gatherings outside of work where they might come into contact with infectious people.

What should a workplace do if an employee becomes ill at work?

Reasons to determine “fitness to work” may depend on a number of issues such as size or type of organization, job responsibilities of employees, ease of working from home (via internet connections, etc).

Generally, employees should be allowed and encouraged to stay at home if they are not feeling well. However, in the event of a pandemic, use screening tools or a list of symptoms as a checklist. If employees are showing any signs, allow them to go or remain at home. If there is doubt if a person is sick, they should stay home for about 3 days. If symptom free after 3 days, they can resume normal activities.



Be sure to visit
KWORCC's vendor booth
at the KAC Annual
Conference!

REMEMBER!



The KWORCC
Annual Meeting of Voting
Delegates starts at 5 PM
on Monday
November 17, 2008
in Eagle EFG
at the Hyatt Regency
in Wichita, Kansas

2008 Board Meeting Dates

- ✓ January 17th
- ✓ February 12th
- ✓ March 13th
- ✓ April 17th
- ✓ May 22nd
- ✓ June 19th
- ✓ July 17th
- ✓ August 21st
- ✓ September 18th
- ✓ October 16th
- November 17th – Annual Meeting
- December 11th