

3 Be Aware of Your Surroundings

In today's fast paced society, it's easy to lose focus while driving -- singing a tune, thinking about your tasks for the day -- anything can be a distraction. When driving, it's imperative that you always pay attention to your surroundings. Remember, animals come in all shapes and sizes, so even a small animal, like a jackrabbit, can make you swerve and cause a traffic collision with another vehicle or another object. If you are always aware of your surroundings, you can react accordingly to avoid an accident.



The Cost of Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions

The best estimate from the U.S. Department of Transportation, is that wildlife-vehicle collisions cost Americans approximately \$8.3 billion a year.

In fact, collisions with deer represent the single largest collision category involving human and vehicle costs. On average, if you were to have a collision with a deer while driving, you would have to pay the following:

- ◆ \$1,840 in vehicle repairs
- ◆ \$2,702 in medical costs
- ◆ \$125 in towing fees
- ◆ \$50 for animal carcass removal

That's more than \$4,500 out of your pocket. These costs can be mitigated by taking the time to follow the basic safety steps outlined in this brochure.

Did You Know?

The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office is not a revenue-generating entity for the County. All monies generated from fines related to traffic tickets go directly to the State of New Mexico.

Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Prevention

Partnering Together for a Safer Community...



This brochure has been provided by Sandoval County and the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office. The recommendations are intended to enhance safety within the community.



Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Statistics

Sandoval County's roadways allow people to travel to every corner of our county...whether for a morning commute to work, or a trip to run errands, our roadways are part of our daily lives. Along the way, these roadways cross through the habitats of many local wildlife species, such as free-roaming horses, deer, elk, bears, mountain lions, coyotes, jackrabbits and more. When these paths cross, collisions can occur, and in greater numbers than most people realize.

Based on the results of U.S. Department of Transportation study, *there are an estimated 300,000 collisions between cars and large animals every year in the United States.* This presents a real danger to human safety, as well as a danger to wildlife survival.

Working Together

Wildlife-vehicle collisions have a significant impact to the community, and it's important to take steps to make our roadways safer for drivers and wildlife. In order to do that, it's vital that community members work together to become more aware, take actions to change behaviors and follow all traffic laws and regulations. Together can we reduce the impact of wildlife-vehicle collisions in our community.



Sandoval County Sheriff's Office

Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Prevention



There are many steps that residents and visitors to Sandoval County can take, to help prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions. Below are three simple things you can do to help protect the community, wildlife, and assist the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office in preventing unnecessary collisions and traffic incidents in our county.

1 Obey All Posted Speed Limits

Speed plays a major role in your ability to stop your vehicle when an animal runs into the road. By obeying all posted speed limits, it will be easier to stop your vehicle in an emergency, to avoid a collision.



2 Watch for Animal Crossing Signs



Animal crossing signs are placed to provide a warning to drivers that they are entering an area of roadway often frequented by wildlife. These signs should cause you to heighten your awareness, slow your speed and enhance your reaction time, should an animal dart into the roadway.