

To everything there is a season, and Kentucky's drivers must once again brace themselves for the annual three-month surge in roadway encounters, and collisions, with the most dangerous animal in the United States – the white-tailed deer.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) estimates that each year white-tailed deer cause car accidents across the nation that are responsible for tens of thousands of injuries and the deaths of approximately 200 Americans. Those collisions also carry the hefty price tag of \$4.6 billion in insurance claims annually.

Kentucky State Police (KSP) data reports that Kentuckians were in a total of 2,798 automobile collisions with deer last year (178 fewer than in 2011), resulting in 140 injuries but no deaths. However, the KSP reporting also shows that these collisions have clearly defined seasonal peaks. In 2012, more than 47% of all collisions with deer in Kentucky took place during the final three months of the year, and 24.3% of the annual statewide deer collision total was reported in November alone.