

ERIE, Pa., Sept. 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Each year, deer-vehicle crashes cause more than 200 deaths and tens of thousands of injuries, while racking up \$1.1 billion in property damages. Based upon Erie Insurance's decade of deer-vehicle collision data, we estimate that about one in every 100 drivers is likely to have a collision with a deer. However, by being aware of the risks and following precautionary measures, drivers can reduce their likelihood of colliding with a deer.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20041112/ERIELOGO>)

"Erie Insurance is the only insurance company using ten years' worth of deer claims to perform an in-depth annual analysis of deer-vehicle collisions," says Darrin Birtciel, rate analyst. "This helps us pinpoint when and where such collisions occur as well as plot trends."

This year's analysis revealed:

- Overall deer claim frequency has gone down over the past 10 years.
- In fact, 2007 had the second lowest number of deer claims since 1998.
- Deer claim frequency is highest in West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Here in Pennsylvania, deer-vehicle collisions decreased slightly last year. However, it's still one of the top Erie Insurance states for deer claims.

Two of the most dangerous days to drive in Pennsylvania - in terms of deer - are Monday, December 1 and Saturday, December 6, the opening day and opening Saturday of hunting season. If you live in Potter County, you're more than three times as likely to hit a deer; and in Sullivan County, you're more than four times as likely to hit a deer.

[snip]

According to A.M. Best Company, Erie Insurance Group, based in Erie, Pennsylvania, is the 16th largest automobile insurer in the United States based on direct premiums written and the 21st largest property/casualty insurer in the United States based on total lines net premium written. The Group, rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, has over 3.9 million policies in force and operates in 11 states and the District of Columbia. Erie Insurance Group ranks 488 on the FORTUNE 500.

Most recently, Erie Insurance earned J.D. Power and Associates' award for "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with the Auto Insurance Purchase Experience." This award recognizes the top rankings in J.D. Power's 2008 Insurance New Buyer Study, which assesses customers' experience in purchasing a new auto insurance policy. Visit us at auto.erieinsurance.com.

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