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**(Neb.)-Santa Colleague Has Run-In With Local Law Enforcement**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 12/17/2012 09:36 AM

(Chadron)-A Chadron police officer was unharmed after a close encounter with a deer. According to Chadron Police Chief Tim Lordino, Mike Loutzenhiser was doing a regular patrol, and was blind-sided by a single deer. The incident occurred at 6 am on Friday, December 14, near First and Maple in Chadron.

The deer aimlessly stumbled into the driver's door of the patrol car, but did not obtain entry into the cab of the vehicle. Lordino stated there were some small dents in the door, but no other major damage. The Nebraska State Patrol stated that although there was approximately \$1,000 damage to the vehicle, Loutzenhiser was wearing a seat belt and suffered no injuries.

During the holiday season, it is not at all unusual for deer, more specifically reindeer, to be scouting for good little girls and boys for Santa Claus. It is likely the deer was on a secret mission and was not completely comfortable with its surroundings. Although it is more common for people to hit deer with their vehicles, on occasion, an animal will actually hit a passing car or truck.

There has been no report as to whether the deer in question reported to Santa that Loutzenhiser was on the naughty or nice list.

(Questions? Comments? Email [news@chadrad.com](mailto:news@chadrad.com))

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