



Perkins County Sheriff's Office

"Protecting & Serving Perkins County Since 1888"

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

January 10, 2005 8:00 a.m. MDT

**Perkins County Sheriff's Office
Cruiser Involved in Motor Vehicle
Accident**

On Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 5:28 p.m., a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor belonging to Perkins County was involved in a motor vehicle accident three miles east of Madrid on Highway 23.

Perkins County Deputy Mark Hunter, who was driving the unit at the time of the accident, was responding to a domestic assault reported to be in progress in the vicinity just north of Madrid.

While enroute to the call, Deputy Hunter's vehicle struck a deer that came out of the north ditch and crossed Highway 23 in front of the vehicle he was driving. The collision with the deer caused extensive damage to the front of the vehicle, both front seat airbags to deploy and the vehicle to become disabled. There was no other traffic in the area of Deputy Hunter when the accident occurred.

Deputy Hunter, who was seat belted in the vehicle, had only minor complaints of pain in the left shoulder and neck. Perkins County Sheriff's Office personnel later transported Deputy Hunter to the Perkins County Community Hospital in Grant, where he was examined and then released.

A second Perkins County Sheriff's Deputy, who was also responding to the domestic assault call as a backup officer, was able to continue responding to the scene of the domestic assault call.

Perkins County Sheriff's Office law enforcement personnel who were off duty at the time of the accident reported to duty to provide backup assistance at the domestic assault call and the scene of the motor vehicle accident.

The Nebraska State Patrol also responded to the accident scene and completed an accident investigation at the request of Perkins County Sheriff Jim Brueggeman.

"Deputy Hunter was using his emergency equipment while responding to the emergency call for assistance and most importantly was following Nebraska motor vehicle laws and departmental policy and procedure, which dictate how law enforcement officers may respond to emergency calls for service," said Sheriff Brueggeman. "I am thankful Deputy Hunter was not seriously injured, it reminds us as law enforcement officers of the unpredictable nature of our jobs each time we leave our homes and walk out the door to protect and serve the public."

Perkins County Sheriff's Office personnel are forwarding reports regarding the domestic assault call to the Perkins County Attorney for his review and possible filing of charges.

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