

STATISTICS OF RURAL CRASHES



70%



ROUGHLY 70% OF SINGLE-VEHICLE RUN-OFF-ROAD FATALITIES WORLDWIDE HAPPEN ON TWO-LANE RURAL ROADS

25%



1 OUT OF 4 FATAL RURAL ROAD CRASHES INVOLVE SPEEDING

50%



NEARLY 50% OF FATAL CRASHES NATIONWIDE OCCUR ON RURAL ROADS



80%

of fatal tractor rollovers involve operators who are experienced



44%

of tractor fatalities are from rollovers, a leading cause of farm deaths

35,000 people are involved in alcohol-related rural crashes each year in the U.S

35,000

83,000 people died on U.S. rural roads between 2017–2021

83,000

NEBRASKA:

NEBRASKA'S RURAL ROADS HAVE A FATAL CRASH RATE OF 1.531 DEATHS PER 100 MILLION VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED, ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE REGION

RURAL TWO-LANE ROADS ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY 90% OF SINGLE-VEHICLE RUN-OFF-ROAD FATALITIES IN THE STATE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES ARE LONGER IN RURAL AREAS, INCREASING THE CHANCE THAT INJURIES BECOME FATAL
ABOUT 624 PEOPLE DIE ON NEBRASKA ROADS EACH YEAR, AND TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE DEATHS HAPPEN IN RURAL AREAS

Info Graphic- Rural Crashes

Kiley Ayres, Adams Central High School

I start this by opening up Adobe Illustrator and creating a blank 8.5 in x 11.8807 in document. I started by adding the title, making it big and bold so people could read it easily. Next, I looked at websites for information about rural crashes. Most of the information I found was on the <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/safety> site. Once I had some information, I decided to start at the top with some percentages I found. I put them in boxes and made them bigger so they would pop. Underneath each percentage, I added what it represented. I decided that it needed something else too, so I found photos related to the information, like people or cars. I also added a line to separate the title from the information, and added a car crashing silhouette at the top. I continued using the popping out percentages as the starting point of my information, making them bigger than the other text. I made two of these and added another silhouette, placing everything in a square to organize it. Then I found some big numbers and wanted to put those inside a shape, like a stop sign, so I used the shape tool for that and added the related information to the left side. Lastly, I wanted to include Nebraska, so I found information specific to the state and wrote in the information and bolded "One Of The Highest In The Region" because it was important for people to notice that. I still had some blank space, so I added more information and tilted it slightly to make it different from the rest. I also added the matching silhouettes. I also used the line tool and dashed lines to separate all the sections. Finally, I added the source most of my information came from at the bottom.

Driving Safely

BY GRACE BRADER

Many Adams Central students drive themselves to school taking gravel roads. During fall, especially before the corn is harvested, it is important to drive safely. Listen to your parents when they give you this advice.

Incorporating a few extra minutes into your drive can help if you come across a road delay or heavy machinery in the road. Even if you end up not needing the time, someday you might.

“Working a few extra minutes into your daily commute might not always be easy or even necessary but, especially during harvest season, on the occasion that you encounter a slow moving or stopped piece of machinery, it can have a huge impact, giving you the opportunity and time to be patient and wait until it is absolutely safe to pass or move around them in the appropriate manner,” said Adams Central agriculture teacher Brandon Jacobitz.

Cell phones should never be used while driving, especially when visibility is already hindered. This action that seems innocent can cause major accidents especially when you are sharing the road with slow moving machinery. Always keep your eyes on the road and not on your phone.

Some who have grown up around farm equipment know that big machinery often has blind spots. To help those farmers that are hard at work, make sure they know you are there before attempting to pass to prevent accidents.

“As someone who knows the challenges of moving equipment on public roads, I would like to share that you should never assume that just because you are approaching a piece of farm equipment that the operator can see you, or is aware of where your vehicle may be located in relation to them,” said Mr. Jacobitz.

Most of the time farmers realize they are in a slow moving machine, so they will try to give you the room to pass when it is safe to do so.

“Good ways to do this are to wait until you see the equipment slow down or make a deliberate movement to provide you with the needed space for

your vehicle on the roadway,” said Mr. Jacobitz.

“Understand that

many times an operator may see you, but because of the width of the road and equipment or other hazards, they may not be able to move over immediately, and you may need to wait until it is safe for them to do so. One of the most hazardous things you can do is to intentionally move your vehicle closer to a piece of moving equipment in an attempt to ensure they see you, or to persuade them to move over. If and when that equipment needs to slow or make an abrupt movement into a field driveway, you now have less time to react,” Mr. Jacobitz said.

Stopping at stop signs and slowing down at blind intersections can also help prevent accidents. You never know what kind of machinery could

be around the corner that could cause a crash.

Some students at Adams Central help move these large machines. Two of them are Gus Hemberger and Stetson Fitzke.

“Tractors and semis are hard to stop on a dime. When you are on gravel roads, it is always best to stop at every intersection

even without a stop sign. My dad had one of his friends die at one of those intersections, so it is a very big deal to always be cautious on country roads,” said junior Gus Hemberger.

Not only can getting in a crash cause damage to you or your vehicle so can the flying debris that these large machinery can drop or kick up off of the road.

“Another way you can stay safe is if you stay farther back from the farm equipment and give them room. This is important because machinery can

throw dust, rocks, and mud, so staying back will keep you safe from damage,” said sophomore Stetson Fitzke.

Remember to be cautious of vehicles around you while you are driving. You may not know when or where they will be turning, especially with large equipment pulling into fields. Keep your eyes on the road because slow moving vehicles can sneak up on you fast.

“Ensuring that a driver is not distracted is one of the most simple but effective things that someone can do, especially during harvest season...”

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<https://www.transportation.gov/rural/safety>

Graphic by K. Ayers



Lunch Buddies on the playground and at lunch. Photos by K. Wischmeier.

Lunch Buddies

BY KAYELYNN WISCHMEIER

Adams Central Lunch Buddies travel to the elementary two times each month to eat lunch with the students there. Applications to be a part of the program are open to students in Future Business Leaders of America.

Over 40 members applied this year, showing that this is a highly sought after activity. From those applications, elementary principal Lonnie Abbott and assistant principal Shannon Nepple choose who they think are the best fit to interact with the younger kids.

FBLA members stay from 11:00-12:30, so there is plenty of time for the high schoolers to mingle with different groups and talk to different grades and classes.

The high schoolers love to be involved with the younger generation. Talking to them about how their future may unfold and giving them advice on how to make it through the rest of their years in school is very entertaining and exciting.

“I love seeing how excited they are when we arrive and

being able to make them feel included and valued.

As a Lunch Buddy, I visit the elementary school once a month to spend time with students during lunch and recess. I try to sit with different groups of kids and age levels each time, talking with them and playing games,” senior Emilia Uhrmacher said.

“Kids often look up to older students. Seeing their buddy’s positive attitude toward school can encourage better classroom behavior and motivation.”

Mrs. Neile Anderson has taken the role of Lunch Buddy coordinator. Due to the popularity of the program, she now runs the program with the help of her FBLA officers.

Lunch Buddies isn’t just a big deal for the high schoolers, it’s also a big deal for the elemen-

tary kids. They love to see their role models during the school day and have the opportunity to ask questions and indulge in what is going on in the life of a high school student.

“It is something for the students to look forward to. I like to see the positive role models that our FBLA members provide for the younger students. High school students serve as caring mentors, showing younger kids that at Adams Central we should all be trustworthy, kind, and respectful,” Mrs. Anderson said.

Lunch Buddies is about being a good role model for the kids, but it is also fun for the older kids. Getting involved in an organization that puts students out into new environments to broaden their horizons is powerful. This is a great opportunity for the high school students to meet many kids.

“My favorite part about being a Lunch Buddy is getting to interact with the younger students and serve as a positive role model,” Uhrmacher said.