



URBANDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

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TOPIC: Public Service Announcement – Special Urban Antlerless Hunt

The City of Urbandale has been ranked by CNN Money Magazine as one of the top 50 cities to live in. As an employee and resident of Urbandale I highly agree with their rankings. I also believe that there are many deer out there that feel the same way.

For those of you who are outdoor enthusiasts you have probably noticed a large population of deer within our city. The Iowa DNR and the Polk County Deer Task Force have performed aerial surveys and found that the deer population is too high to sustain a healthy population. This is why Urbandale is still involved with the Special Urban Antlerless Hunt for the twelfth season.

The City of Urbandale has ordinances regarding the hunting of deer within the city limits and has passed a yearly resolution that sets the boundaries and season for the special bow hunt. Any bow hunter who wants to hunt within the special hunt zone needs to have permission forms signed by the landowners and needs to register with the Urbandale Police Department. Every hunter must show that they have completed the IDNR Bow Hunter Safety Course and pass a yearly Bow Proficiency Test. The hunters must follow the rules set forth for safe and ethical hunting within our city.

The bow hunters registered with the antlerless hunt harvest female deer within this zone to prevent the population from rising. When a hunter harvests two or more does, that hunter is eligible for the buck tag drawing as set forth by the IDNR rules. This allows the hunter to harvest one buck the following season to keep the ratio of male/female deer within reason. These hunters earn the tags legally.

As with any cross-section of our society, there are greedy and unethical people out there, poaching deer within our city. This has been ongoing problem for as long as I have been a police officer in Urbandale. Many times people have called about finding a headless deer carcass or of hearing shots being fired. There have also been occasions when our legal registered bow hunters have witnessed attempted poaching. A few poachers have been caught by Urbandale Police and by IDNR Law Enforcement Officers but the problem still remains.

As an added tool to help combat the problem of poaching we are implementing a new program by the Urbandale Police Department. Urbandale Police Officers will be working with the registered hunters in identifying and photographing antlered deer within our city to keep a database of bucks. The photographs will be shared with the IDNR as a way to identify which ones were legally harvested and as possible evidence for those illegally poached. The photos would help identify a buck that was harvested in Urbandale if the poacher claims it was harvested in another location.

Any resident of Urbandale who wants to share recent photos they have taken of antlered deer within our city are also welcomed to send these to the Urbandale Police Department. Please include the time, date and location where the bucks were photographed. If you do hear a possible shot being fired please do not hesitate to call 911 to report this. If you see a vehicle loitering in an area that seems suspicious please call the police and give a description of the vehicle.

All registered hunters in Urbandale have yellow tags, along with metal tags, attached to their deer stands this year. The yellow tag has the Urbandale Police Department logo stamped on it for identification. If you see a deer stand that has no tag please report this to the Urbandale Police Department. Registered hunters have the legal rights to hunt and that any harassment of them by others that interfere or deny them of the hunt may lead to the arrest of that person harassing them.

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