



Deer Avoidance

Avoiding Collisions with Deer

Deer strikes with a vehicle can be extremely dangerous. Each year many drivers and their passengers are injured or killed in collisions involving deer. While many wild animals cross roadways, deer present the most frequent and damaging animal hazard.

As rural areas continue to develop and deer populations continue to increase, vehicle deer crashes will continue to increase.

Because the threat of deer collisions are so prevalent, drivers and their passengers **must** wear seat belts avoid serious injury.

Seasons and Time of Day

Deer collisions can happen year-round. The majority of collisions occur during the spring and fall seasons. Fall is when hunting season is open. Deer are also mating in the fall. The spring shows increase deer activity due to the birthing season. The times of highest risk for collisions are around dusk and sunrise. Remember, **safety belts** are the best defense in any collision.

Deer Avoidance Tips

- Be especially alert in the fall and spring and around sunrise and sunset.
- Watch for “deer crossing” signs as they are posted where deer have been known to cross the roadway with greater frequency.
- Don’t depend on mechanical devices, such as deer whistles; tests indicate they do not work.
- Maintain a safe speed; don’t overdrive your headlights.
- When there is no oncoming traffic, use your high beams to help visibility.
- Scan the sides of the road to spot deer.
- If you see one deer, expect that others are nearby; deer are herd animals and rarely travel alone.
- If you see a deer on the road, slow down and blow your horn. Flashing your headlights may confuse the deer.
- If deer are on the side of the road, assume they will bolt out in front of you and drive slowly past them.
- Don’t try to swerve to avoid hitting a deer. Abruptly turning the vehicle may make you lose control and result in a more severe accident than hitting the deer.

If You Collide with a Deer:

1. Turn on your emergency flashers.
2. Move your vehicle off the traveled portion of the roadway.
3. Do not go near the deer unless you are sure it is dead. An injured deer may become violent.
4. Contact the police to report the collision.
5. If the deer is in the roadway, notify the police of the situation.
6. Notify the company according to fleet policy.
7. Obtain written accident reports from police if possible.

