

Deer Safety Driving Tips

During the breeding season bucks will be chasing does across roads and highways, and hunters often push Deer into moving across roads. The time period between early October and December, includes not only hunting season, but when crops are being harvested. These activities may result in deer being displaced from their fields.

The fall months will bring a number of vehicle collisions with deer. More than 20,000 vehicle collisions can be expected this year. These types of collisions can result in fatalities, multiple injuries and millions in total insured losses.

Deer are most often seen crossing roads in the evening and early morning, particularly around dusk and dawn. As you drive during this deer traffic season, it is important that you prepare yourself by anticipating the problem and paying special attention to your surroundings. Below are ten driving tips that will help you avoid hitting a deer or minimize the dangers associated, if a collision occurs.

Ten Safety Driving Tips:

- Wear seat belts and drive at the posted speed limits.
- Drive with extreme caution in areas where deer crossing signs are posted.
- Dusk and dawn are high risk time periods.
- If you see one deer on a road or highway, expect that there will be more.
- Don't totally rely on deer whistles and high-beam headlights to deter deer.
- Driving with high-beam lights on will illuminate the eyes of the deer to allow for maximum response time.
- Don't swerve your vehicle to avoid hitting a deer. (Although this may be odd; but if a collision with a deer is inevitable, it is important to maintain control of the vehicle.)
- Avoid braking at impact, this does not preclude braking before impact. (Some experts say that this will make the car go down, so that the deer is more likely to pass under the car as opposed to hitting the windshield.)
- Report any deer-vehicle collisions to local authorities
- Stay alert, awake and sober.

Remember: Deer are unpredictable especially when frightened—drivers always need to stay alert.

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