

Avoiding Deer Related Collisions



Key Practices

- ✓ Wear seat belts at all times.
- ✓ Avoid distractions. This is always important, especially in higher risk areas or times.
- ✓ Keep your eyes moving. Scan roadsides, woods, or fields. If you see one deer, slow down and prepare to react.
- ✓ What if the deer is not in the road? Slow down and prepare to stop or react as they move quickly and there may be more.
- ✓ Stay alert. Although car-deer crashes occur all year, be especially alert in the spring and fall, and at dusk and dawn.
- ✓ Don't ignore deer crossing signs. They are placed in known higher deer activity areas.
- ✓ Light it up. Use high beam lights whenever it's safe and look for reflections in their eyes.

If a crash is unavoidable:

- ✓ Don't swerve into another lane or off the road. Slow down, stay in your lane, and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- ✓ What if you hit a deer? Only pull over if it is safe. Turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic if you leave your vehicle.
- ✓ Be careful. Don't attempt to remove a deer from the road, unless you are convinced it's safe, as an injured deer can cause injury.
- ✓ Call law enforcement if required. Depending on your state, you may need to contact local law enforcement to report the collision.



Every year, collisions with deer result in thousands of vehicle accidents, or collisions that involve hitting other vehicles or objects while trying to avoid a deer. Animal collisions can cause serious injuries or damage and must be taken seriously.

Key Facts

- ✓ Deer are most active from April to June and October to December.
- ✓ Most deer related collisions occur at daybreak and at dusk, when they are moving.
- ✓ Be especially alert during these periods, or in rural areas; however, alert driving is always the best practice, since animal behavior is unpredictable.
- ✓ In Michigan, about 80% of deer collisions are on two lane roads. Although most are in rural areas, deer can live in towns or suburbs.
- ✓ Deer are herd animals and frequently travel together. If you see one deer, chances are that there will be more, so slow down and be prepared.