

DEER COLLISION

Deer Collision TBT 11-20-23

As the fall season gets underway, drivers may find themselves encountering more animal traffic on the roadways.

According to the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI), insurance claims for damage from collisions with animals rise sharply every fall, coinciding with deer mating season.

Drivers should pay extra attention on the road for deer and other animals during this time. In areas with large deer populations, it is likely you will see increased activity and unfortunately hear more stories of vehicle collisions with deer.

The following are some defensive driving tips that can be used to minimize your chances of an animal-related collision:

1. Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
2. If you see one deer cross, slow down and watch for others to follow.
3. Look for movement where roads are bordered by fields or natural animal habitats.
4. Heed deer crossing signs and reduce speed in deer "hot spots."
5. When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of animals on or near the roadway.
6. Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their vehicle.
7. Always wear your seat belt. Deer-vehicle collisions can result in serious injuries, and even death.
8. Ensure that your brakes and tires are in good working order. A properly functioning vehicle can help if you need to react quickly. If you are involved in a vehicle incident with an animal:
9. Do not attempt to touch an injured animal that is in or near the road. When the police arrive, they will be able to call the proper local authorities to care for the animal.