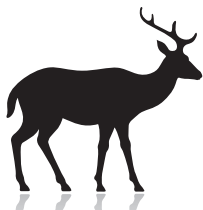




DID YOU KNOW!

EVERY
39
MINUTES

A collision with some form of wildlife occurs on average.



The majority of reported collisions involve deer.



1 out of 17 car collisions involves wildlife.



An estimated 200 motorists die in the U.S. each year from car-wildlife collisions.

KNOW WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH OUT

- 89% of wildlife collisions occur on two lane roads. The majority of drivers in every state use two lane roads, making the probability of a wildlife collision extremely feasible.
- Wildlife collisions occur more frequently on straight roads with dry surfaces.
- Collisions occur more frequently in the early morning (5AM-9AM) and evening (4PM-12AM) due to animals trying to find food.
- Wildlife collisions occur more in the spring and in the fall due to the animals moving more from migration, mating, or hunting season.






HOW TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF AN ANIMAL COLLISION

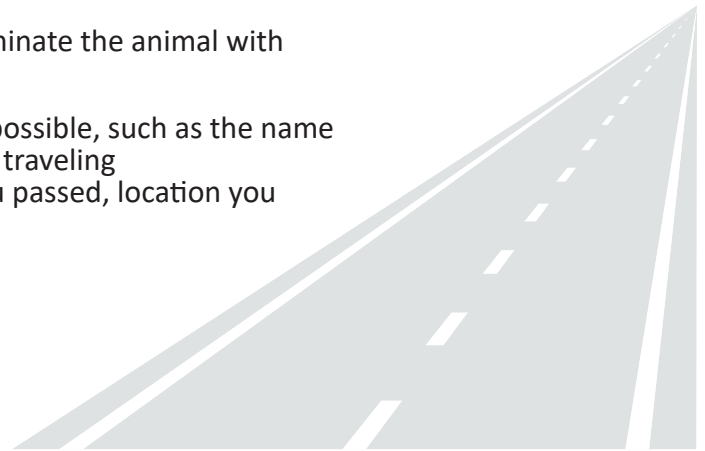
- **WATCH FOR SIGNS**- These are yellow diamond shaped signs with the picture of the animal(s) on it. You do not have to slow down to a certain speed unless there is an adjacent speed limit sign.
- **REDUCE SPEED**- Speed is the most common factor in vehicle collisions as it reduces the driver's ability to steer away from objects and increases the force of the impact.
- **DRIVE DEFENSIVELY**- Drivers and passengers should watch out for wildlife on the road & on the side of the road, shining eyes, flickering head lights of oncoming cars, and roadside reflectors that disappear/reappear.
- **DO NOT SWERVE**- Serious accidents can occur when drivers lose control trying to avoid an animal. Drivers are generally safer by hitting an animal. The size of the animal compared to your vehicle does matter; if the animal is taller than your hood you can try to avoid it but it still might be better to hit the animal. Moose are always the exception to the "do not swerve" rule. An adult moose can grow up to 1,600 pounds!
- **GOOD MAINTENANCE ON YOUR VEHICLE**- Make sure all aspects of your vehicle are in good working order.

IF AN ANIMAL COLLISION IS INEVITABLE

- Aim for where the animal is coming from not going.
- Look where you want to go, not at the animal.
 - it is a natural tendency for people to drive in the direction of where they are looking.
- Try to hit the animal at an angle.
- Let up the brake before you hit.
 - this causes the front end to rise and reduces the chance of the animal coming through the windshield.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ANIMAL-VEHICLE COLLISION

-  Pull off the road and turn on hazards. Try to illuminate the animal with your head lights if applicable.
-  Call 911- try to provide as much information as possible, such as the name of highway or road you are on, direction you are traveling (north, east, south, west), last landmark that you passed, location you were traveling from and where you are headed.
-  Do not touch the animal.
-  Document the damage.
-  Speak with your insurance company.



SAFETY RISKS

SMALL ANIMAL COLLISIONS: Small and medium animals do not pose the same risks as large animals to vehicles; however, poor driver responses can be just as dangerous. When driving it is important to be prepared to come across small and medium animals at any juncture, regardless of it being a rural or urban area.

Many small and medium sized animals such as squirrels or foxes are more agile and have more movability than a vehicle and can quickly dart out of the way. If a collision with a small or medium animal is unpreventable they are typically not dangerous to drivers.

LARGE ANIMAL COLLISIONS: Collisions with large animals pose a danger to humans and the animals. Research shows that about 4-10% resulted in injuries to drivers and the passengers each year. (Approximately 26,000 per year). Out of an average of 38,493 fatal crashes about .5 percent were animal related.

Nearly all collisions with larger animals such as elk or moose will end with substantial vehicle damage. The average cost of repairing the vehicle after colliding with a deer is estimated to be \$1,840. The monetary impact is higher with an elk or moose, increasing to an average of \$3,000 to \$4,000.



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