

VEHICLE vs. DEER COLLISIONS

While November is normally the month with the highest risk for deer vs. vehicle collisions, such accidents can happen any time of the year. The effects can be costly.

The Department of Transportation offers the following tips to help avoid deer vs. vehicle collisions:

- Slow down and prepare to stop as soon as you see a deer. Stopping your vehicle is safer than taking evasive action. Also, slow down if other cars are behaving differently.
- When you spot a deer, watch for more. Deer frequently travel in groups.
- Know that deer are nocturnal; and often travel at dawn and at dusk. Many deer vs. vehicle crashes occur between the hours of 6:00 p.m and 12:00 a.m.
- When driving at night, watch for reflections from your headlights. Deer eyes may reflect the light, and spotting the reflection could give you more reaction time. Use your bright lights when no traffic is approaching.
- For maximum safety, assume that deer will cross your path.
- Do not swerve into another lane to avoid striking a deer. It is better to strike a deer than another vehicle or a fixed object.
- If you hit a deer, pull to the side of the roadway, turn on your emergency flashers, call 911 and wait for assistance from law enforcement personnel.

