



Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust

INJURY PREVENTION

# Quick Review of Safety

## Deer-vehicle Collisions

### PREVENTION AND BEST PRACTICES

- Deer-vehicle collisions peak in late October through November coinciding with deer mating season and diminished daylight hours. Be especially vigilant at this time.
- Increase awareness at dusk and dawn. This is the time when deer are most active.
- Avoid speeding. Slow down on blind corners or when the road dips or rises and limits the amount you can see ahead.
- Scan roadside ditches for deer, especially in forested areas, near river or stream banks, or where deer crossing signs are posted.
- Deer are known to travel in groups and often move in single file. If you see one deer, be especially cautious. It is likely there will be more.
- Deer can be rather unpredictable. Always slow down when you see deer. They may decide to jump out into the roadway.
- Keep the windshield clean.
- Always buckle up, stay alert and drive sober.
- Use high beams at night or when driving in low-light conditions while being considerate of other drivers.
- Do not drive faster than the time it would take you to stop should something appear in the headlights.
- Car-mounted deer whistles are largely ineffective at preventing deer strikes. Do not rely on them.

### IF YOU ARE ABOUT TO HIT A DEER

- Hitting the deer is often the safest option.
- Keep your hands on the wheel.
- Do not swerve. Swerving to avoid a deer can lead to a loss of control. It can also put the driver and occupants into the path of oncoming traffic or a roadside object.

(Over)



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**AFTER HITTING A DEER**

- Brake firmly and come to a controlled stop.
- Move well off the roadway.
- Seek medical attention if necessary.
- Turn on the vehicle hazard lights.
- Alert the nearest law enforcement agency to report the collision.
- Do not move the deer yourself. The task may be dangerous due to traffic or the weight and awkward lifting required when moving the animal.
- Follow the established personal insurance or employer coverage reporting process.

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