

DON'T VEER FOR DEER!

While the state's two million deer are most active in spring and fall, vehicle-deer crashes are a year-round problem. Each year, there are nearly 50,000 reported vehicle-deer crashes in Michigan. About 80 percent of these crashes occur on two-lane roads between dusk and dawn. The most serious crashes occur when motorists swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or a fixed object, or their vehicle rolls over.

Follow these safe driving tips when encountering deer on the road:

- Always wear a seatbelt. Most people who are injured in vehicle-deer crashes are not wearing seatbelts;
- Be alert for deer, especially between dawn (5-8 a.m.) and dusk (6-10 p.m.). Vehicle-deer crashes occur all year-round, but are more prevalent in spring and fall;
- Pay attention to deer crossing and speed limit signs. Be especially alert in areas where roads divide forestland and agricultural fields; and
- Be cautious if you see one deer, there may be others nearby. Deer seldom run alone.



If a crash is unavoidable:

- Don't swerve out of your lane to avoid deer. Instead, brake while securely gripping the steering wheel to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop;
- Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers, and be cautious of other traffic if you exit your vehicle;
- Do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can not only cause harm to you, but also to itself;
- Report the crash to the Southfield Police Department by calling the City's Animal Assistance Hotline at (248) 796-5410; and
- Call your insurance company to report any damage to your car. Collision with an animal is covered under the comprehensive portion of most auto insurance policies.