

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY

AHEAD OF
THE CURVE

Safety Management
Services Company, 2012

An affiliate of
Cottingham & Butler

Be Safe Out There

"If you do see a deer or other animal on the road ahead, don't slam on the brakes."



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Animal Strikes

Do not try to swerve around an animal! You could lose control of your vehicle and hit a tree or another vehicle—both potentially much worse than hitting an animal. If you swerve, there's also a chance that the animal will panic and run into your path.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, there are an estimated 1.5 million animal-vehicle collisions annually in the United States, causing more than 150 fatalities and \$1.1 billion in property damage.

Certain states experience more collisions with animals than others. According to State Farm's annual claim statistics, the states with the highest number of accidents involving animals between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006, were: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Minnesota, Texas, Indiana, and South Carolina.

Take special care near animal-crossing warning signs. Be aware that animals adapt well to living close to humans and that some populated areas are as likely to have animals around as rural areas. The signs are there for a reason.

Use your high-beams whenever possible. They will give you more time to spot and react to animals on the road.

Keep your speed down at night. Most collisions do occur on narrow, two-lane rural highways, but they can occur on any type of road.

If you see one animal, expect that there are others nearby. According to the Animal Protection Institute, 70% of animal-car collisions result after the driver slowed down for one animal and then accelerated, failing to see another.

Know which seasons and times are worse than others. Deer are most active in the months of October, November, and December during the peak breeding season. Late February and early March are also critical months for deer collisions. Be especially watchful of animals in fair weather periods before storms. **Animals are usually seen along the roadside during the early morning hours and late evening.**

Don't jeopardize vehicle control when avoiding animals.

If you do see a deer or other animal on the road ahead, don't slam on the brakes. Keep your lane position, and sound your horn while braking in a controlled manner. Sudden panic stops are not a good idea, as they could spook the animal, causing it to suddenly dart into the path of another vehicle.