



Southwestern Insurance Information Service

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## News Release

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### **TEXAS ENTERING DEADLIEST SEASON FOR VEHICLE/DEER COLLISIONS**

**(Austin) Drivers should be extra cautious this time of year since October and November are the deadliest months in Texas for vehicle and deer collisions with November being the worst, an insurance industry trade group warns.**

**Texas leads the nation, followed by Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in fatalities from vehicle/deer accidents with an estimated 15-20 human fatalities per year.**

**These accidents peak in the fall because of hunting season and increased mating activity, which in turn prompts the animals to roam more, according to Sandra Helin, spokeswoman for Southwestern Insurance Information Service. Be especially careful during the early morning and evening hours, which is when groups of deer tend to move around more, she added.**

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Texas has approximately four million deer, or one for every six Texans. According to industry estimates based on claims, there are about 6,000 vehicle/deer collisions per year. If you take into consideration claims that are not reported by uninsured drivers they could increase by up to twenty percent, Helin said. Insured losses could range from \$3,000 to \$15,000 depending on the severity of the crash, she added.

SIIS offers the following tips to avoid hitting a deer:

- **If one crosses in front of a vehicle, drivers should know that more may follow so keep a close eye out and slow down.**
- **Slow down when you see a deer crossing zone.**
- **A deer's eyes reflect light so use high beams at night and you will have a better chance of spotting deer close to the road.**
- **If a deer comes close to crossing your path, brake firmly but be sure not to swerve. Many fatalities happen when a vehicle swerves into oncoming traffic or off the road and into a tree rather than strike the deer.**

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**\*\*\*Some say that if impact is inevitable and you are driving a car as opposed to an SUV, braking would lower the nose of the car and could force the deer up on the hood or into your windshield. If you choose not to brake, remember not to swerve.**

**If you strike a deer, get your car off the road and call the police. Do not attempt to touch the animal because any wounded animal can be very dangerous. Call your insurance agent to report damage to your vehicle as this would be paid by the comprehensive coverage on your car, she concluded**

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