

Seasonal Driving Tip-November 2016



RISK MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

"Breathing Life Into Safety"

AUTUMN DRIVING: ANIMAL-CAR COLLISIONS

Upcoming Driver Safety Classes:

Distracted Driver:

11/12/2016
MSB 1401 JFK
10 am-12 pm

12/06/2016
MSB 1401 JFK
10 am-12 pm

Rules of the Road:

11/22/2016
MSB 1401 JFK
10 am-12 pm

12/20/2016
MSB 1401 JFK
10 am-12 pm

Defensive Driver:

11/15/16
MSB 1401 JFK
8: 30 am-12: 30 pm



In the City of Philadelphia, we have Wissahickon Park, Fairmount Park, FDR Park, the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the airport. The one thing these places all have in common is a large population of deer and other wild life. There are also stray domesticated animals such as dogs and cats roaming the city as well.

No one wants to hurt a dog, cat, rabbit or squirrel. Certainly no one wants to collide with a deer or other large animal, but as urban development cuts into woodlands, it forces wildlife onto roadways.

Where, and when, the wild things are

A study found that 89 percent of car accidents involving animals take place on the kind of two-way roads that many people drive on daily. The risk of hitting an animal isn't just a rural one, roads with lots of vegetation on either side are especially dangerous. When animals looking for food or a mate reach the edge of greenery, they don't recognize the danger of a paved highway and will simply keep going.

Many animals feed in the dim light of dawn and dusk. If you're driving at these times, slow down and scan the side of the road carefully. Antlered animals (deer, elk, moose) mate in autumn, making them more vulnerable during the fall.

What to do if you see an animal

Tap your brakes so the car behind you knows you're lowering your speed. If it's safe, maneuver to the left or right in order to steer clear of the animal, do not swerve.

At night, flash your high beams multiple times. Deer fixate on headlights and may back away from the road. In fact, driving with your high beams on (as long as no cars are coming toward you) can help to illuminate animals' eyes so you're more likely to see them. Some wildlife travel in family groups or herds. If you see one animal, be alert for more.

If you hit an animal

In the event you do hit an animal here are a few recommendations for you to follow.

Pull over. Put on your hazard lights to alert oncoming cars that something's up. Don't try to move or treat a wounded animal. If it wasn't hurt too badly or was only stunned, it may recover and attack you.



Call for help. If you've injured an animal and you're OK, call a non-emergency service like Animal Control. The best way to get the number is to call information at 4-1-1. If you can, stay with the animal until help arrives. For major collision that causes significant damage to your vehicle and/or serious injuries warrants a call to 9-1-1 for EMS response or if the incident results in creating a significant road hazard.



5 Statistics for Deer Car Accidents

1. There are about 1.5 million accidents involving deer with an estimated cost exceeding \$1 billion each year .
2. There are 150-200 human fatalities each year and an average of 10,000 personal injuries.
3. An estimated \$400 million out of the \$1 billion in costs comes from accidents involving deer occurring in Pennsylvania.
4. A majority of these accidents involving deer occur between October and December, but can happen at any time of year.
5. The leading cause of accidents, injuries, and deaths involving deer is when the driver of the vehicle swerves.

2016 Deer-Vehicle Collision Report

HIGHEST RISK		
1. WEST VIRGINIA: 1 IN 41	6. WISCONSIN: 1 IN 77	
2. MONTANA: 1 IN 58	7. MINNESOTA: 1 IN 80	
3. PENNSYLVANIA: 1 IN 67	8. MICHIGAN: 1 IN 85	
4. IOWA: 1 IN 68	8. WYOMING (TIE): 1 IN 85	
5. SOUTH DAKOTA: 1 IN 70	10. MISSISSIPPI: 1 IN 87	
LOWEST RISK: HAWAII: 1 IN 18,955		

Source: State Farm Auto Insurance 2016 deer-vehicle collisions report

Risk Management wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.



For registration RSVP:
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For more trainings visit:
www.phila.gov/risk

Bulletin created by:
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For more driving tips see:
<http://bottomlineinc.com/dusk-dawn-driving-can-be-deadly/>