



VITALS

For Medical Transport Professionals

A Weekly Safety Newsletter

Looking for Love in the Wrong Places

Each year, 1.5 million traffic accidents involving deer and vehicle collision occur nationwide, resulting in about 150 human deaths and an estimated \$1 billion in damage. These accidents happen year-round, but the frequency increases in late October, November and December when deer are more actively searching for food and a mate. In addition, this is harvest season and deer lose their natural cover, forcing them to relocate. Be particularly careful at dusk and dawn, as 22% of these accidents occur between 5AM and 7AM and 56% occur between 5PM and 1AM.

Here are some other reminders:

- If you see one deer, expect to see more. They travel in herds, so SLOW DOWN.
- DO NOT swerve to avoid a deer. The results could be much worse, such as a collision with another vehicle, striking a fixed object (tree) or a rollover.
- Be particularly careful in areas where the road crosses a stream. Deer tend to follow water.
- Use your high beams when you can. This helps illuminate deer on the side of the road.
- There are few devices on the market, such as deer whistles, that are meant to scare off deer, but caution should still always be exercised.

Top 10 States for Deer-Vehicle Collisions

1. Pennsylvania
2. Michigan
3. Illinois
4. Ohio
5. Georgia
6. Minnesota
7. Virginia
8. Indiana
9. Texas
10. Wisconsin



* information provided by State Farm Insurance

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Speeding

Excerpt from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Analysis of Speeding-related Fatal Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes"

Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while a driver reacts to a dangerous situation.

Higher crash speeds also reduce the ability of vehicle, restraint system, and roadway hardware such as guardrails, barriers, and impact attenuators to protect vehicle occupants. Speeding is a factor in 30% of all fatal crashes. About 1,000 fatalities resulted from speeding-related motor vehicle traffic crashes every month.

In this report, we have analyzed the trends of nationwide speeding-related fatal crashes in the US. Environmental related factors (e.g. day of week, roadway functional class, etc.), drivers behavior related factors (e.g. driver's age and gender, alcohol use, etc.), and vehicle related factors (e.g. vehicle type and crash type) have been investigated.

Saturdays have the highest number of speeding-related fatal crashes, followed by Sundays and Fridays. The number of speeding-related fatalities is the highest in arterial roads followed by local/collector roads and finally interstates. About 40% of speeding-related fatalities occurred on a curve, nearly twice the proportion of non-speeding related fatalities that occurred on a curve.

Male drivers are more likely to be involved in speeding-related fatal crashes than female drivers among drivers of all ages. The relative proportion of speeding drivers decreases with increased driver age. About 41% of intoxicated drivers (BAC= 0.08+) involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared to only about 14% of the sober drivers. Over the years, while the percentage of intoxicated drivers who were speeding has decreased slightly, the percentage of sober drivers who were also speeding has been relatively constant.

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