



California Department of Transportation • California Highway Patrol

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELP PREVENT VEHICLE VERSUS DEER COLLISIONS

Autumn is deer mating season – which means deer are on the move and less cautious about darting out into the road.

“There have been several recent deer versus vehicle collisions in our area alone,” said Adam Jäger, CHP Lieutenant Commander. “I urge drivers to be careful, especially at this time of the year.”

Drivers should be extra vigilant this time of year and follow these tips for driving in deer country:

- Be particularly attentive between sunset and midnight, during the hours shortly before and after sunrise, and in foggy conditions. Most deer-vehicle collisions occur during those times.
- Drive carefully in areas known to have high deer populations. Places where roads divide agricultural fields or streams from forestland are particularly dangerous.
- If you see a deer, slow down. Others are probably nearby.
- Use high-beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams can reflect off their eyes and warn you of their presence.

- If a deer is in your lane, brake firmly but stay in the lane. The most serious crashes occur when drivers swerve.
- Don't rely on deer whistles, deer fences, or reflectors to deter deer.
- Wear seat belts.
- If your car strikes a deer, don't touch the animal. If the deer is blocking the highway, call 911.

“Please use extra caution when driving and make the end of the day a good one,” said Charlie Fielder, Caltrans District 1 Director.

Driving tips used with permission from the National Park Service.

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