

OH, MY.... DEER!



Autumn is here which means the risk of hitting deer on the roads and highways is rising, especially around dusk and during a full moon. Each year approximately 1 million vehicle-deer collisions are reported, and the frequency of collisions rises sharply during the months of **October**, **November**, and **December**. This time of year results in more accidents due to: the fall deer breeding season (a.k.a. rut season), deer hunting season and harvesting of crops. While severe injuries or deaths are uncommon, vehicle damage can be extensive. Click [here](#) to learn how to best avoid collisions and to help conserve the beautiful wildlife Oakland residents strive to keep safe.

Driving Best Practices to avoid a collision with a deer include:

- Use high beams whenever possible
- Watch for reflecting eyes
- Deer travel in groups, so always expect more
- Be alert for *Deer Crossing Indicators* such as deer crossing signs, dead deer, and skid marks
- Always wear your seatbelt, 60% of occupants killed are not wearing seat belts
- Don't Swerve – brake firmly, bringing your vehicle to a controlled stop
- Abide by 3-4 second following distance – improves visibility and allows for reaction time
- Always be cautious but particularly during *Peak Times* of dusk and dawn between the hours of 5:00-8:00 am and pm.