



TODAY'S SAFETY TALK – TRAINING SESSIONS TO PREVENT INJURIES AND INCIDENTS

# TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

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## DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

### **Deer-vehicle collisions**

According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation, from 2013 through 2017, there were 12,650 animal-vehicle crashes. Many of these crashes resulted in serious injury or death. [*Instructor Prompt: Ask the audience to describe if they have hit or almost hit a deer, it's a pretty common occurrence. If no one responds, perhaps ask if they know someone who has hit a deer.*]

We can't avoid all deer-vehicle collisions, but we can avoid many of them. We can greatly reduce injuries with proper preparation and learning the prevention techniques, which we will talk about. Your health and safety is important to us, we don't want you to get hurt.

### **Prevention and Best Practices**

- Deer-vehicle collisions peak in October through November, coinciding with deer mating season and diminished daylight hours. Be especially vigilant at this time.
- Increase awareness at dusk and dawn. This is the time when deer are most active.
- Avoid speeding.
- Scan roadside ditches for deer, particularly in forested areas, near river or stream banks, or where deer crossing signs are posted.
- Deer are known to travel in groups and often move in single file. If you see one deer, be especially cautious. It is likely there will be more.
- Deer can be unpredictable. Always slow down when you see deer. They may jump out into the roadway.
- Keep the windshield clean.
- Always buckle up, stay alert and drive sober.
- Use high beams at night or when driving in low-light conditions while being considerate of other drivers.
- Do not drive faster than the time it would take you to stop should something appear in the headlights.
- Go slowly around blind corners or dips and hills on the road where the view ahead is limited.
- Car-mounted deer whistles are largely ineffective at preventing deer strikes. Do not rely on them.

## **If You Are About to Hit a Deer**

- Keep your hands on the wheel.
- Do not swerve. Swerving to avoid a deer can lead to a loss of control. It can also put you and others in the vehicle with you into the path of oncoming traffic or a roadside object.
- Remember: DON'T VEER FOR DEER!

*Hitting the deer is often the safest option.*

## **After Hitting a Deer**

- Brake firmly and come to a controlled stop.
- Move well off the roadway.
- Seek medical attention if necessary.
- Turn on the vehicle hazard lights.
- Alert the nearest law enforcement agency to report the collision.
- Do not move the deer yourself. The task may be dangerous due to traffic or the weight and awkward lifting required when moving the animal.

Follow the established personal insurance or employer coverage reporting process. [*Instructor prompt-*  
Discuss your organization's accident reporting process.]

## **Discussion Questions**

- How can we best avoid injuries from deer-vehicle collisions?

# TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

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DATE OF TRAINING: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENTER: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signature

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