



Title: **Motorists beware: deer pose hazard**
 Author:
 Size: 13.95 square inch
 Champaign, IL Circulation: 21713



FROM OUR READERS

Motorists beware: deer pose hazard

Deer are common along Illinois roadways this time of year. Drivers should be alert and know how to respond when deer are nearby. I suggest using the following strategies to reach your destination safely:

- wear a seat belt.
- avoid distractions. Drivers may have very little time to react to a deer. Be alert at dawn, dusk and night-time hours when deer are most active. Pay extra attention when road signs indicate deer are common.
- honk. Blast the horn if you see a deer near the roadway to scare others nearby.
- use high beam headlights at night whenever possible.
- hit the deer rather than swerving or braking suddenly. A driver may lose control by abruptly changing vehicle direc-

tion. Better to hit the deer than an oncoming car.

— pull over to a safe place and call for assistance if you hit a deer. Request medical help for injuries. Do not get out to check on the animal. Stay inside your car until

help comes or it is safe to move the vehicle.

People often turn to their insurance companies to help with vehicle repairs following a deer-hit. Comprehensive insurance covers damage when there is direct contact with the deer. Swerving to avoid the deer and hitting another car or fixed object is a collision claim. Liability-only insurance provides no coverage for damage to your vehicle.

KEVIN J. MARTIN
 Illinois Insurance
 Association
 Springfield