

# DOAS Loss Control Bulletin

## October 2010

### Topic of the Bulletin... Deer Collisions

The State of Georgia continues to have issues with State vehicles hitting deer/animals. One agency alone had 42 incidents in FY2010. We are entering the peak season October-December for collisions with animals. Please urge all drivers to be cautious during this time of year which is the mating season for White Tail Deer. One source estimates that Georgia drivers will have nearly 42,000 collisions with deer this year, nearly half of them occur in the next three months.

#### Some suggestions for avoidance of deer collisions:

- Be vigilant near dawn and dusk, the most active time for deer.
- Heed signs for animal crossings and speed limits.
- Always wear your safety belt. It reduces your chances of being injured if you hit a deer.
- If you see a deer by the side of the road, slow down and blow your horn in **one long blast** to frighten it away.
- When you see one deer, look for another; they seldom run alone.
- If a deer looms in your headlights, don't expect it to move away. Headlights can confuse a deer and cause it to freeze.
- Brake firmly when you see a deer in or near your path.
- Do not swerve. Swerving can confuse the deer and cause you to lose control and hit a tree or another vehicle.
- If you hit a deer, stay in your vehicle. Do not get out and touch the animal. An injured deer can hurt you or itself.
- Get your car off the road if possible and call law enforcement.



Also, be aware that deer are not restricted to rural areas, but also inhabit some densely-populated areas due to increased human encroachment into formerly rural areas. "Deer Whistle" studies have been inconclusive, some indicating that some whistle frequencies are out of the deer's hearing range. Below are two links that give additional information to assist drivers in avoiding deer collisions:

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources offers this information:  
<http://www.georgiawildlife.org/content/displaypressrelease.asp?ArticleID=1345>

GIIS also offers similar deer-car avoidance tips:  
[http://www.giis.org/auto/car\\_deer\\_collisions.shtml](http://www.giis.org/auto/car_deer_collisions.shtml)

Please share this information with your organization's drivers, as well as your family and friends. Nationally, there are over 1.5 million car-deer collisions annually resulting in over 180 deaths. State Farm Insurance ranks Georgia 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for deer collisions. It is a serious problem which seems to be on the increase if our experience is any indication. Many of these incidents can be avoided if the proper precautions are taken. Let's do all we can to protect our drivers and give them as much information as possible to protect themselves.



**Thanks for your time. Let's work together to make Georgia a safer place to work.**