

# TRUCK TALK

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## Deer Season

Ah, fall. That magical time of year when a doe and a buck lock eyes through a clearing in the trees, and with their hearts filled with deer-love and their eyes flooded with deer-passion, they bound out to one another, oblivious that they are heading for certain doom delivered by a metal death machine on wheels.

This is peak deer breeding season, and deer are active at all times of the day and night. You can and will see them anywhere and everywhere, not just around cornfields and wooded areas. Please consider the following information:

**5.7 Million.** The miles of roads in the United States.

**250 Million.** The number of vehicles registered in the United States.

**23 Trillion.** The number of vehicle miles traveled in the United States annually.

**6.3 Million.** The number of automobile accidents in the United States annually.

**1.5 Million.** The number of animal vs. vehicle accidents in the United States annually.

**50 %.** The estimated percentage of vehicle vs. large animal accidents that go unreported annually.

**90 %.** The estimated percentage of vehicle vs. animal accidents that involve deer.

**200.** The number of human deaths resulting from a vehicle vs. deer accident annually.

**\$2000.** The average minimum cost for repairing a vehicle after a collision with a deer.

**1 Million.** The number of vertebrates run over each day in the United States. That is a rate of one every 11.5 seconds.

In your position as a professional driver you are likely to have the opportunity to interact with one of these creatures. Please be ready to react professionally.

**1. DO NOT SWERVE** to miss a deer. You may lose control of your vehicle and make an already bad situation a terrible situation.

**2.** While you can and will see deer at any time, please be particularly cautious during the dawn and dusk hours.

**3.** Be aware of your surroundings at all times, but pay particular attention to areas that have "Deer Crossing" signs. They are there for a good reason.

**4.** Again, if it looks like you are going to hit the deer, then hit the deer. It is much better to have your vehicle in control and hit the deer than trying to maneuver to miss the deer and go in the ditch or hit an oncoming vehicle.

In the time it took you to read this article, there were approximately 8 vehicle deer accidents. They are inevitable, and you are likely to be involved in one of them one of these days. Please be prepared!

