



Town of Southampton Deer Protection and Management Committee

DEER NEWS AND NOTES: DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

FALL IS HERE. WATCH FOR DEER!

Now that Fall is here, deer are more likely to be seen crossing our roads. Be especially vigilant during the early dawn, between 5AM and 7AM and in the early evening between 6PM and 11PM, when driver visibility is reduced and most deer vehicle collisions occur.

In the interest of public safety, the Town's Deer Protection and Management Committee offers the following driver tips:

- *Reduce your speed in the early morning and early evening, particularly where heavily wooded corridors extend between existing homes, as deer are most likely to cross roads in these areas.*
- *Watch for Deer Crossing Signs, which are typically posted in locations having a high incidence of deer vehicle collisions.*
- *Where there's one, there's usually more! If you see one deer cross the road, there's usually more to follow, as deer typically move in file, as staggered groups.*
- *The deer rutting season is fast approaching. As a consequence, bucks in pursuit of females will often blindly dash across our roads, with little regard for moving cars.*
- *If you see a deer crossing the road, slow down. Try not to swerve to avoid hitting deer, as such action can cause your car to veer off the road or into oncoming traffic.*
- *If you hit a deer, do not approach the deer or attempt to help the deer, as a frightened deer is unpredictable and can injure you. Pull your car off the road, as best as possible, call 911 and wait for assistance. Also, if the animal is injured, please call the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center Hotline at 631-728-WILD (9453), so that a licensed wildlife rehabilitator can also assist.*
- *Watch for the reflection of deer eyes from your headlights to alert you that deer are approaching.*
- *Never stop your car to photograph or otherwise observe deer along the road shoulder, as such action can often frighten deer and cause them to run onto the road into oncoming traffic.*
- *Don't tailgate other cars, as you will likely be involved in a crash, if the car ahead of you hits a deer.*
- *Always wear your seat belt!!*