

Drivers beware: Deer on move

**(KLZA)-- Fall has arrived, and that means more wild animals, especially deer, are on the move as cooler temperatures begin to settle in and nights become longer.**

**The Missouri Department of Transportation reminds motorists to be prepared for the sudden appearance of wild animals on roadways throughout the fall months.**

**Shorter days mean motorists are driving in the dark more often and when deer are more active. This leads to a peak of vehicle collisions involving deer and other wildlife from mid-October through the end of November.**

**Missouri continues to climb the ranks for deer collisions. According to State Farm Insurance, the Show-Me State now ranks 10th in the country for potential animal collisions - up from 14th last year - with a 1 in 80 chance of hitting an animal while driving.**

**In 2022, Missouri drivers experienced 3,699 crashes involving a deer. One deer strike occurred approximately every 2 hours and 20 minutes in the state. In these crashes, there were 5 fatalities and 424 people were injured.**

**Drivers should never swerve to avoid animals in the road, as it can cause loss of control of their vehicles, resulting in serious injury or death. To avoid hitting a deer, always be cautious and regularly scan both sides of the roadway.**

**According to Missouri Law, an individual who has struck and killed a deer with their vehicle may claim the deer carcass if written authorization to possess the deer is granted by a Missouri Department of Conservation agent. The Wildlife Disposition Form is free, but the MDC must be contacted to obtain the permit.**

**If a deer is struck along a state-maintained road and is completely off the roadway, MoDOT will not pick it up unless it impedes mail delivery or is in a neighborhood, especially at or near a bus stop. If a deer is located on the shoulder, MoDOT will address the deer during normal work hours. MoDOT crews are not called out after hours to remove an item unless it is a road safety hazard in a driving lane.**

**MoDOT does not have specialized crews assigned to remove dead animals from the roadway and does not contract out any roadkill removal.**

## Many Signals Communications