

BEST FLEET FORWARD

DRIVING SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRY

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Emergency Roadside Stopping

In the event of an accident or mechanical failure, you may be forced to stop your vehicle before you're able to reach a parking lot. Roadside stopping presents a significant hazard to drivers and proper care should be taken to ensure you're as visible as possible and reduce your exposure to passing traffic. Following these guidelines for emergency roadside stopping will help keep you safe and get you back on the road.

DO

- Park as far off the shoulder as possible.
- Turn the front of the vehicle away from the road to allow for a safer exit clearance.
- Exit on the side of the vehicle opposite to traffic if possible.
- Park along straight sections of road to increase visibility to passing drivers.
- Wear clothing that's bright, reflective, or contrasts the color of your vehicle.
- Activate flashing lights while exiting the roadway, the entire duration of your stop, and until you merge back onto the roadway.
- Store emergency triangles and lighting on the right side of the vehicle.

DO NOT

- Park along curved sections of the road, after hills, or immediately after obstructions like bridges, as this will decrease your visibility and impede your line of sight.
- Exit on the driver's side of the vehicle.
- Stand directly behind the vehicle.
- Face away from oncoming traffic.

Once you're safely stopped, ensure that all emergency triangles are properly placed. At a minimum, emergency triangles should be placed 10 feet toward the direction of oncoming traffic and 100 feet centered of the lane or shoulder occupied by the CMV both toward and away from the oncoming traffic. Carry the triangles so the reflective surfaces are facing oncoming traffic, making you visible to passing motorists.

Safety items to keep in your vehicle

Every vehicle needs to have a safety kit with commonly-needed items in case of an emergency. Here are some essential items:

- Battery booster cables if you're trained and competent in their use
- A first aid kit
- An emergency mylar blanket
- Reflective road triangles or LED strobes
- An ABC-rated fire extinguisher
- A small foldable shovel and small container of salt in the snowy season

Additional items that should be stored in the glove box or close to the driver.

- Flashlight
- Tire pressure gauge
- High-visibility reflective vests
- Roadside assistance information
- Accident reporting forms, pens, and information
- Windshield ice scraper
- Vehicle escape tool: seatbelt cutter and window breaker



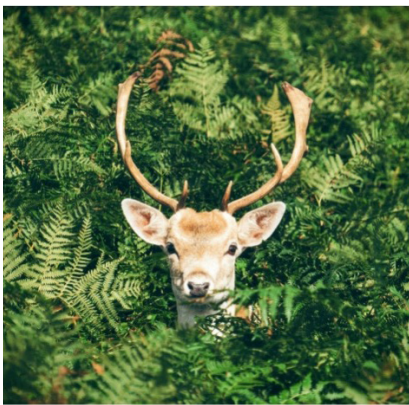
Deer in the Head Lights?

Deer are peaceful and serene animals, but when you unexpectedly come in contact with deer on the road, they can cause serious damage and potential injuries. To help with night vision, deer have more photoreceptors in the eyes compared to humans. Unfortunately, this superior vision also causes them to become blinded by headlights and freeze; thus, the saying deer in the headlights. The problem arises when the driver is unable to respond in time, resulting in a collision. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, each year there are one million car accidents involving deer in the United States. These accidents result in nearly 200 deaths.



When driving through wooded areas or areas with deer crossing signs, be alert. Scan the sides of the road for deer. Remember, deer are pack animals so if you spot one on the side of the road, there are probably more in the area, so slow down and be alert. Deer tend to be most active at dusk and dawn. Use extra precaution from October to January as this is their mating season and they're more active. During this mating period accident rates are higher. When driving, use your headlights. Headlights can reflect their eyes, allowing you to spot the deer. Some people believe that honking your horn can scare deer out of the road.

When you spot a deer in the road, avoid overreacting. Apply the brake firmly and stay in your lane. Swerving into another lane could result in a head-on collision. If a collision does occur, call the police to report the incident. Always alert the authorities if the deer is blocking traffic because it could cause other accidents.



DEER FACTS

- Deer can see better at night than during the day.
- Deer are color blind to red, orange, and green. These colors appear grey to deer, allowing hunters in orange vests to blend in.
- Deer can run up to 30 mph to escape predators.
- They can jump as high as 15 feet, so a large fence is required to protect your garden.
- Deer are most active at dawn and dusk due to cooler temps, but during the colder winter months they're most active midday.
- Deer are great swimmers; they can swim up to 15 mph for distances up to 10 miles.

Beware of Falling Leaves!

We all know about the hazards of driving on ice, but the dangers of driving on leaves is less publicized. Hard breaking on leaves can be as slippery as on ice. In addition, the leaves can cover road markings and lane lines so focus on the edge of the road to stay in your lane.