



## News Release

***For Immediate Release***

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## Watch out for deer, especially this time of year

**Raleigh, N.C. – October 31, 2017** –The last three months of each year bring about deer migration and mating season. Unfortunately, this increases the chances of being in a deer-vehicle collision. According to the N.C. Department of Transportation, more than 19,500 animal-related crashes were reported in North Carolina in 2016, with an estimated 90% of those involving deer.

As these types of auto accidents (and their price tags) are on the rise, the Insurance Federation of North Carolina (IFNC) warns drivers to be especially cautious while on the road this fall and winter.

“Drivers should be especially cautious just before and after sunrise and from sunset to midnight when deer tend to be moving more,” says Russ Dubisky, a spokesman for IFNC. “Drivers should also wear their seatbelts and check their insurance to make sure they will be covered if an accident does occur.”

Auto accidents involving deer or another animal are covered under the comprehensive portion of an automobile policy, which is an optional coverage. The Insurance Information Institute estimates the national average cost per insurance claim relating to deer collisions is about \$4,000, with costs varying depending on the type of vehicle and severity of damage; claims involving medical payments can add thousands of dollars.

The IFNC suggests you take these precautions while driving:

- Drive with caution in posted areas and in areas known to have a large deer population - especially in the early morning and evening hours.
- Heed deer crossing signs, lower your speed, always buckle up and stay awake, alert and sober.
- If you see one deer, look for others, as they often move in groups.
- Use high-beam lights when possible to reflect the eyes of the deer, and blow your horn to frighten the deer away.
- If a collision seems unavoidable, brake firmly and stay in your lane. If you swerve to avoid the deer, you could lose control of your car or end up in the path of another vehicle.
- Call the police immediately to report the incident, and contact your insurance agent or company as quickly as possible to report any damage to your car.

*For more information from the Insurance Federation of North Carolina, or to schedule an interview, call (919)539-1375.*

*The Insurance Federation of North Carolina (IFNC) is a trade association established in 2004 by the leading property and casualty insurance companies doing business in North Carolina. IFNC serves as the voice for the industry on legislative and regulatory matters and promotes consumer awareness on issues of importance to the property and casualty insurance industry.*

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