



Installation Safety Office

Crashes With Animals

There are over 200,000 collisions with deer and other larger wild animals on German roads every year. Although most of these accidents are not serious and are limited to damage to the vehicle's bodywork, nevertheless 28 people died in accidents involving wild animals in 2002, for example, and 14 people died in 2005. Around 3,000 drivers a year are injured, some of them seriously.



The analysis of the accidents involving wild animals revealed the following findings:

- The overwhelming majority of accidents involving wild animals occur between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. and between 5 p.m. and midnight, but the period between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. is quite dangerous as well, given that traffic volumes are low at that time.
- Accidents involving wild animals happen throughout the week.
- It was established over a number of years that accidents involving wild animals peak in May, October and November, although the differences between the months are relatively small. Care must be taken throughout the year.
- In 80 percent of all accidents involving wild animals, the car collides with a deer. In 10 percent of cases, it collides with a wild boar.

Conclusion: Accidents involving wild animals continue to be a serious road safety problem. They can happen to any driver, regardless of experience or driving skills. None of the measures discussed and used thus far (scent fences, optical/acoustic reflectors, cutting back the hedges and bushes on the roadside or signs warning about wild animals crossing) were found to reduce the numbers of accidents effectively.

The UDV (Accident Investigation Board of German Insurance Companies) recommends the following for avoiding accidents with wild animals:

- Care must be taken throughout the year, not just in the spring or fall.
- Wild animals should be expected at dawn, dusk and, above all, at night.
- Reduce Speed if animal comes in sight.
- Use Low Beam Headlight if you spot an animal.

Source: Excerpt of an article from the UDV.

Remark: If your vehicle strikes an animal, do not touch it or take it (poaching). The frightened animal, in attempting to move, could hurt you or itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.

