

## How to stay safe during vehicle-deer crash season: Know the facts

*Stay alert! These crashes happen most frequently now-December, plus tips for staying safe*

There were 6,552 vehicle-deer crashes in Southeast Michigan in 2019, a slight increase from 2018 when there were 5,958 crashes (increase of 594), according to data released by SEMCOG in a recent [Quick Facts report](#), based on crash data received from the Michigan Department of State Police Criminal Justice Information Center.

Here is some additional information about vehicle-deer crashes in Southeast Michigan:

- Crashes involving deer increased for a third year, up 10 percent from 2018 and at a 10-year high.
- Deer crashes continue to represent less than five percent of crashes and less than one percent of all traffic injuries in Southeast Michigan.
- Deer crashes may present specific safety challenges for motorcyclists, as 65 percent of motorcyclists involved in a deer crash suffered some type of injury.
- Deer crashes occur most frequently during October-December; 45 percent of all 2019 vehicle-deer crashes occurred during those months.

These charts show vehicle-deer crashes by county and the top 10 communities for vehicle-deer crashes in Southeast Michigan in 2019.

### Deer Crash Stats, 2019

| Crashes by County          |               | Top Communities     |     |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----|
| Oakland                    | 1,928         | Rochester Hills     | 172 |
| Washtenaw                  | 1,106         | Scio Twp            | 119 |
| St. Clair                  | 968           | Farmington Hills    | 116 |
| Livingston                 | 878           | Oakland Twp         | 109 |
| Macomb                     | 679           | Washington Twp      | 98  |
| Wayne                      | 513           | Orion Twp           | 94  |
| Monroe                     | 480           | Ray Twp             | 91  |
|                            |               | West Bloomfield Twp | 89  |
| <b>SEMCOG region total</b> | <b>6,552</b>  | Superior Twp        | 81  |
| <b>Statewide</b>           | <b>55,531</b> | Genoa Twp           | 80  |
|                            |               | Oceola Twp          | 80  |

### Tips for all drivers. Please share these statistics and safety tips:

- Stay aware, alert, and sober.
- Buckle up. Safety belts are the best defense in any collision.
- Be alert for deer in October, November, and December, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Slow down. Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs, particularly on two-lane roads. Note that deer frequently travel in groups. If you see one deer crossing or standing alongside the road, chances are there are others nearby that you might not see.
- Don't veer for deer! If a crash is unavoidable, don't swerve out of your lane to avoid deer. Instead, brake firmly while securely gripping the steering wheel to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop. Then, safely steer your vehicle off to the side of the road.

- It's generally safer to hit the deer than run off the road or risk injuring another motorist.

SEMCOG's interactive Crash Locations map allows users to customize vehicle-deer crash information. Link to it [here](#).

### Top 10 communities in Livingston County in 2019:

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Genoa Twp     | 80 |
| Oceola Twp    | 80 |
| Howell Twp    | 79 |
| Hartland Twp  | 69 |
| Brighton Twp  | 69 |
| Marion Twp    | 61 |
| Handy Twp     | 58 |
| Green Oak Twp | 55 |
| Tyrone Twp    | 53 |
| Iosco Twp     | 48 |