



MONTHLY SAFETY MEETING

Date: November 2018
Subject: Deer Accidents

Tow truck operators respond to service calls involving deer accidents. The CDC has reported that bacteria and diseases are spread by animals, especially deer. Recent studies suggest that some diseases can be spread to humans from bodily fluids from animals such as spinal cord and fluid, feces, blood and glands. The tow truck operator usually comes in direct contact with these bodily fluids when performing his/her work. This is where the possibility of danger comes in.

When responding to this type of service call it is recommended to follow the advice noted below.

It is highly recommended to wear nitrile gloves under the work glove to prevent contact with these bodily fluids. It is also suggested that the operator after leaving the scene wash his/her hands and face as soon as possible. All drivers must treat any body fluids from deer the same as bio hazard with human bodily fluids. When possible clean any and all equipment that may have come in contact with the deer remains.

Make sure that the proper authorities have been notified about the incident.

Tips to avoid hitting a deer:

- Be especially attentive during peak deer hours. From sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Use extra caution when driving through deer-crossing zones. Be especially careful in places known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide farms from forestland.
- Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby, be alert.
- Use your high-beams when driving at night, when there is no oncoming traffic. The higher light will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway, use your eyes to scan the area.
- If you spot a deer slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- Brake firmly but stay in your lane when you notice a deer in or near your path. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars or trucks.
- Keep both hands on the steering wheel firmly in place. Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/truck-deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
- Do not rely on deer-detering devices. Deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.
- If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car/truck off the road, if possible, and call the police.
- In the event a deer damages your car/truck contact your insurance agent or company representative to report the incident. If the deer accident occurs while driving for your employer, call the incident in immediately.