



# Safety Alert



## INCIDENT TITLE:

Animals on Rural Roads

## TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Every Day, Especially Dusk and Dawn.

## INCIDENT DETAIL :

The Mackenzie Basin/Waitaki Valley and Southland is home to a wide range of wild animals. Many of these grow to be large animals that would cause some extensive damage to vehicles and injuries to drivers if hit by a vehicle.

Various species of Deer and Pigs roam around the State Highway 82 Waitaki and Te Anau/Mossburn area especially at dusk and dawn where they cross the road to go drink water in the Hydro lakes and rivers. Wallabies have been a problem around the Waimate district and Hakataramea Valley for years but have now made their way as far the Lindis pass.

Winter driving conditions makes it extremely difficult to stop quickly or to drive around flustered animals in the road.

This has been reported a few times by Meridian workers and contractors.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### What do you do if you hit an animal while driving?

Even though it's scary to consider it is a possibility, you should always be prepared for such a situation. If you hit a fair-sized animal, you should look after your own safety first. Approaching an injured animal is not advised as their instinct will be to defend themselves. Call 111 or 555 for roadside assistance from the Police. Planning for 'just in case', keeping aware on the road and taking extra care at particular times of day will help you reduce the likelihood of it ever happening. Remember Winter driving condition of Ice and snow or poor visibility and prepare accordingly for your trip.

## BEST PRACTICE:

Animals can seemingly appear from nowhere. If you really have no other option, it's almost always better to hit an animal then run off the road and hit something immovable like a tree or swerve into oncoming traffic and have a head-on collision. If the animal has smashed your headlights or your windscreen, it may not be safe to continue if you are driving at night, in which case you will need to either wait until daylight or organise a tow truck.

## PHOTO



## IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS:

Help out E-Can: Have you seen a Wallaby. Please report this to E-can via their website. This will help with their eradication programme in the South Island.



**THIS SAFETY ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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