



Safety Alert



INCIDENT TITLE:

Farm Stock and Wild Animals on Roads

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Every Day, Especially Dusk and Dawn.

INCIDENT DETAIL :

New Zealand 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 rural area especially at dusk and dawn where they cross the road to go drink water in lakes, ponds, 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. Numerous deer has been spotted in the Waitaki area between Duntroon and Omarama with sheep being a regular sight on roads everywhere in NZ.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

Even though it is scary to consider it is a possibility, you should 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 during dusk and dawn will help you reduce the likelihood of it ever happening. Remember Winter driving condition of ice and snow and poor visibility and prepare accordingly for your trip.

BEST PRACTICE:

Animals can appear from nowhere. If you really have no other option, it is 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 damaged 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:

Damage caused by a Deer in the Waitaki Valley where a driver hit a small deer at 90 km/h.



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