

Safety Matters

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Produced by the Insurance Coverage Office



It's almost that time again.

The Office of Highway Safety finds that deer-related crashes are most common in October, November and December, representing 47% of all Delaware vehicle-deer collisions from 2019 to 2023.

How can you prevent injuries from collisions with deer?

1. Never swerve to avoid hitting the deer. Yes, it sounds harsh, but it is safer to brake and hit the deer than swerve off the road or into oncoming traffic.
2. If you see one, assume there are others. Slow down and scan the sides of the road.
3. High beams can illuminate their eyes from a longer distance.
4. If one is near the road, slow down and blow your horn to scare them away.
5. Use extra caution when deer are most active; 5am to 7am and again from 5pm to midnight.
6. Be prepared to stop, and don't follow the car in front of you too closely in case they need to stop abruptly.
7. Finally, pay attention to deer crossing signs, drive the speed limit, and always wear your seatbelt.

October is National Protect Your Hearing Month

Have you heard the term, ototoxic? Ototoxic substances such as chemicals, medications, and heavy metals cause damage to the organs involved in hearing and balance. The effects can be temporary or permanent depending on the exposure and dose.

In the workplace, chemicals such as solvents, metals, compounds, asphyxiants, nitriles, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides can pose a risk to your hearing.

Exposures occur in several ways, including inhalation, consuming contaminated food and drinks, and absorption through the skin. Once someone is exposed, chemicals travel through the blood stream and damage the inner ear and the nerves that transmit sound information to the brain. Sometimes, exposure to chemicals can make the ears more sensitive to the harmful effects of noise.

Go To <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/noise/about/chemicals.html>



Safety Focused



Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and abdominal infections. Germs can spread from person to person or from surfaces to people, so always maintain good hygiene.

Encourage kids and adults to make handwashing a part of their everyday lives by promoting handwashing on Global Handwashing Day, celebrated each year on October 15th.

Go To <https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html>



Has your department, agency, office or school district purchased, built, made major repairs, or added on to existing buildings or structures?

If so, did you remember to notify The Insurance Coverage Office?

Protect your assets. Complete the "Property Inspection Form"

Go to [DHR - Insurance Coverage Forms](#)



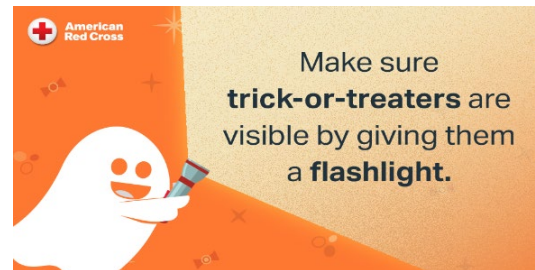
National School Bus Safety Week

October 20 – 24



School buses are one of the safest vehicles on the road. Less than 1% of all traffic fatalities involve children on school transportation vehicles. Instead, children are most at risk when approaching or leaving a school bus. It's important for all students, families, and drivers to understand school bus safety.

For more essential information about school bus safety, Go to <https://education.delaware.gov/families/k12/school-transportation/>



The American Red Cross wants everyone to have a safe and Happy Halloween. Here's a couple tips.

1. Make kids seen with lights and reflective tape.
2. Use flame-resistant costumes.
3. Stay away from long trailing fabric.
4. Parents and responsible adults should accompany young children.
5. Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
6. Check candy for open packages and remove choking hazards. Go to [Redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) for more.

Upcoming Webinars

The ICO conducts monthly webinars on various safety topics open to all employees.

Please Join Our Monthly Webinar on "Accident Investigation and Reporting," October 23rd, at 9:00 am, search the title on the DLC or click this link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)