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SAFETY ALERT

07-S-8

DEER COLLIDE WITH FORESTER'S PICKUP

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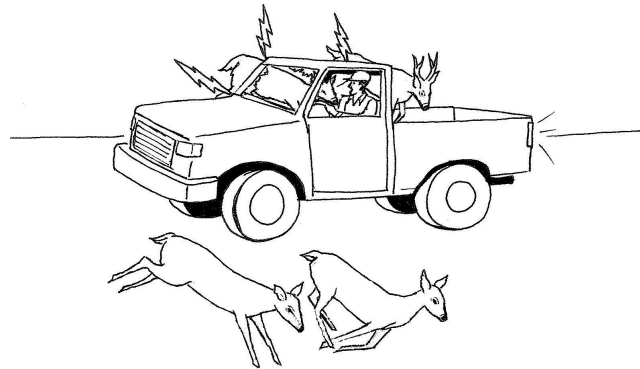
www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/07-S-8.html

BACKGROUND: A procurement forester was driving his pickup on a state highway on his way to visit a timber harvesting site on a clear morning in the South. The highway was flat.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The 25-year-old forester had two years of forestry experience, and he was wearing his seat belt.

UNSAFE CONDITION: The area through which the forester was traveling on his way to the timber harvesting site was heavily populated with deer. The highway's right-of-way was somewhat narrow.

ACCIDENT: The forester had just turned onto the state highway and had accelerated to approximately 40 miles per hour. He looked to his right and spotted seven or eight deer running toward his pickup from the woods across the narrow right-of-way. The forester immediately hit his brakes, but two of the deer struck the pickup. One deer broke through the passenger-side window, and the other deer struck the rear portion of the pickup's cab and bed.



INJURY: The driver sustained minor scratches to his right arm. Damage to the truck included a broken passenger-side window, a broken side mirror, and damage to the passenger-side door, cab, and bed. Repairs to the pickup totaled \$3,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: Extreme caution should be used when driving along roads with narrow rights-of-way, particularly in areas with high deer populations. Some forest products industry companies require employees who drive company vehicles to receive defensive driving training.

Reviewed by:

Jason Cutshall

Southcentral Region Manager