

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 71

Date: May 2024	Focus Group: All Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Unexpected Road Hazards	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incidents: A driver was traveling down a highway when a deer collided with the vehicle, causing significant damage. The driver used his Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) to text for help. In another incident, a driver was overtaking a small truck. As the driver was passing, another vehicle pulled out from a side road onto the right lane. The driver managed to avoid a collision by squeezing back in front of the truck.

Injury Details: No injuries, but there was high potential for harm in both incidents.

Risk Awareness: In both incidents, unexpected events put the drivers at extreme risk. One driver encountered a deer suddenly crossing the road, while the other had a vehicle unexpectedly pull out in front of them during an overtaking maneuver. These situations highlight the importance of always being prepared for the unexpected when driving.

Safe Behaviours: To minimise the risk of similar incidents, it is important that drivers:

- Anticipate hazards such as the sudden appearance of wildlife, people, and vehicles.
- Consider in advance what evasive actions you could take for various hazards.
- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front to allow sufficient time for braking.
- Use headlights in low visibility conditions to see and be seen by others.
- While driving at the speed limit is allowed, going slower gives you more time to react.
- Use your indicators and signals to show other drivers what you’re doing.
- Ensure PLBs and other emergency communication devices are functioning properly.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

