



Durham Regional Police report that a 24-year-old Clarington woman had to be extricated from her vehicle after she swerved to avoid a raccoon Wednesday night.

On Wednesday May 16, 2012 at about 10:25 p.m. the woman was travelling westbound on Baseline Road near Courtice Road when a raccoon ran onto the road. She swerved to avoid the animal, flipping her vehicle and ending up in the ditch upside down. She became trapped in the vehicle and had to be removed by emergency workers. She was taken to hospital and released with minor injuries. Damage to her vehicle is estimated at about \$15,000.

Police are reminding residents to reduce their speeds while travelling at night as visibility is reduced. If you encounter a small animal and think you have time to safely avoid it, reduce speed, and sound your horn. If a collision seems inevitable, maintain control of the vehicle and try to avoid swerving. You may face greater injury by doing so.

Residents are also reminded to avoid distracted driving by turning off cellphones and other devices while behind the wheel. They can take precious seconds away from your reaction time.

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