

Fall Driving: Slow Down, Stay Alert, Scan Ahead

As we move toward fall, wildlife activity increases and daylight hours become shorter, making animals more difficult to see, increasing the potential for vehicle-wildlife collisions.

In October 2025, three CEDA vehicles were involved in deer strikes while travelling to worksites. We are sharing these incidents now as a reminder to prepare for the seasonal increase in wildlife activity before we see the same trend again. **Now is the best time to reset our focus on vehicle safety before these seasonal risks become more challenging.**



Fall Driving Risks:

Wildlife can enter the roadway with little warning, be aware of increased risk periods.

- **October is the peak month for wildlife-vehicle collisions**, with deer representing about 55% of those incidents.
- The highest risk period for wildlife collisions is **September through November, between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.**

Seeing one animal means there may be more.

- Wildlife often travels in groups. If you see one animal near or crossing the roadway, slow down and be prepared for others to follow.

Visibility matters.

- Wildlife is more difficult to see during early morning, evening and other low-light conditions. As daylight hours decrease, drivers need to be especially alert and actively scan the roadway and surrounding areas.

Fall Driving Strategies:

- Reduce your speed when wildlife may be present or visibility is limited.
- Actively scan the roadway, shoulders and ditches for movement.
- Be especially alert during early morning, evening and other low-light conditions.
- If you see one animal, expect others may follow and slow down accordingly.
- Pay attention to wildlife crossing signs and areas where animals are known to cross.
- Keep headlights and windshields clean, and use high beams when safe and appropriate.
- If an animal enters your path, brake firmly and avoid sudden swerving where possible.
- Ensuring corrective actions resulting from incident investigations are implemented and documented in a timely manner

Take the Extra Moment

- Fall driving requires us to anticipate hazards that may not be visible until they are very close.
- Slow down. Stay alert. Scan ahead. Be prepared for wildlife.

For more information, refer to CEDA's [Transportation Safety Policy](#) or contact your regional HSE Advisor.