

The Dangers of Leaves on the Roads

When leaves accumulate on the roadway and become wet, they can get extremely slippery, making the driving conditions similar to driving on ice. If the temperature drops below freezing, the wet leaves will freeze and turn into dangerous icy leaves on the roadway.

Besides reducing the car's traction, causing skidding and the possibility of losing control of the vehicle, leaves often cover the painted road markings, making it difficult to know the locations of the lanes.

- Slow down if you are driving on a road covered with leaves, especially when driving around turns.
- Allow yourself plenty of room to stop in an emergency. Keep a greater distance between you and the car in front of you.
- Leaves make it difficult to see potholes and bumps in the road.
- A pile of leaves raked to the side of the road is an inviting place to a child. Children enjoy jumping into the leaf piles or burrowing down into them and hiding. Never drive through a leaf pile. Use caution going around turns and where children are playing.
- Keep your windshield leaf free to avoid wet leaves getting stuck under the windshield wiper blades.
- In order to avoid the possibility of a fire hazard from the exhaust system or catalytic converter, never park your vehicle over a pile of leaves



Why Driving in the Fall can be Dangerous

Weather conditions can be unpredictable in the fall. A bright, beautiful afternoon can turn rainy and cold in minutes. And with days getting shorter, you could find yourself commuting to or from work in darkness.

Back-to-school traffic

Fall means back to school for kids, which means more cars and buses on the roads. Drivers also need to watch out for increased pedestrian traffic in the morning and afternoon as children walk to and from school and their neighborhood bus stops.

Rain

The first rain in a few weeks can be particularly dangerous, as water pools on top of dust and oil that haven't had a chance to wash away and makes the pavement extremely slippery.

Why Driving in the Fall can be Dangerous

Fog

Cold fall mornings often lead to fog, which can greatly limit your driving visibility and perception of distance. Fog tends to occur in low places or areas surrounded by hills, water, mountains, and trees. One common mistake drivers make during foggy conditions is putting on their high beams instead of staying with their low beams. This only makes visibility worse because your high beams will bounce off the fog and create glare.

When driving through fog, slow down and stay well behind the car in front of you so you'll have adequate time to stop if you need to.

Frost

During the fall, temperatures tend to drop dramatically during the night, which can lead to morning frost and icy spots on the road. This is especially common on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas of the road.

Sun Glare

Fall is also a bad time for sun glare on the roads. Sun glare can impact your sight for seconds after exposure, making it hard to see pedestrians, oncoming traffic, or the car in front of you. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drivers describe being "blinded" after exposure, and this sometimes leads to accidents or near misses.

Sun glare can also cause problems when the sun sets behind drivers. In this case, sunlight can bounce off your rearview mirror or reflect off traffic lights up ahead, and this can blind you for a split second while your eyes adjust. It can also make it hard (or impossible) to see traffic lights, which can prevent you from knowing if you're supposed to stop or go.

Deer

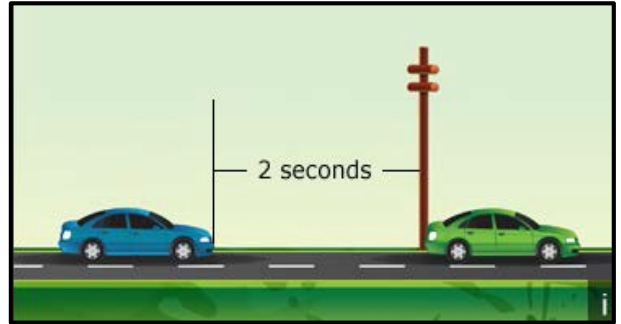
The fall season brings an increase in deer activity because it's their time for mating and migrating. If you live in a deer-heavy area, watch for darting deer, especially when driving at night.



Fall Driving Tips

Being prepared for fall's inclement weather and hazardous driving challenges is half the battle.

- Watch your speed: Drive a bit slower when faced with fall driving hazards, especially if you're driving around a school bus.
- Keep your distance: Leave a little more space between you and the car in front on rainy or foggy days, during dawn or dusk, and in areas with wet leaves. This will give you more time to react.
- Stick with low beams: Keep your headlights on low when driving in the fog (and rain). High beams will only cause glare.
- Clear frost away from your windows: Frost can reduce visibility and response time on the road.
- Approach traffic lights carefully: Sun glare can make it harder to see traffic lights change, so approach them with more than the normal care.
- Avoid using products that increase gloss: Washing and waxing with these products can magnify the fall's sunny glare and make it hard to see.
- Clean your windshield, inside and out: When your windshield's illuminated by sunlight, dust particles, streaks, and smudges become magnified, making it hard to see the road.
- Watch for wildlife: especially in the early morning and evening hours.
- Check your tire pressure: Since fall weather rapidly changes from warm to cold, your tires will often expand and contract. This can lead to a loss of pressure.



Emergency Management News

Schools Using ID Scanners on Visitors to Find Sex Offenders

The student, who is trained and licensed to carry, reported accidentally discharging a firearm in a co-ed dorm that primarily houses second-year students.

First Responders Discuss Advances in Tech Since 9/11

There were no smartphones or social media sites like Facebook and Twitter before 9/11.

Since 9/11, Our Fear Has Harmed us More Than Terrorists Have

Foreign policy was barely discussed during the 2000 presidential election. The world was going our way. Then it happened.

At Least 1 Wounded, 1 Dead in Shooting at Alpine High School in West Texas

At least one shooter is allegedly dead by what appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, EIPasoProud.com reports.

St. Cloud Mall, Closed Until Monday, is 'Crime Scene' After Stabbings

The suspect — dressed in a private security uniform — reportedly asked at least one victim whether they were Muslim before assaulting them, and referred to Allah during the attacks.

Tarleton State Student Accidentally Fires Gun in Campus Dorm

The student, who is trained and licensed to carry, reported accidentally discharging a firearm in a co-ed dorm that primarily houses second-year students.

Study Offers Insights that Could Help Quell Recruitment of ISIS Supporters on Twitter

The Islamic State has used social media to effectively spread propaganda and connect with like-minded individuals, and researchers are still looking at what can be done to head off the radical threat.