

Preventing Collisions with Wildlife

Use this guide to lead a discussion with employees about the risk of collisions with wildlife. It can help them understand the injuries and damage that can result. The guide can also help them take steps to reduce their risk. Use any of the suggested key points in your talk. Consider printing this guide and giving it to drivers.

Why is this topic important?

Key points

- Every year in B.C. more than 11,000 vehicle collisions with wildlife are reported. And it's estimated that only 50% of all wildlife collisions are reported
- Collisions with wildlife result in 3 to 5 human fatalities and more than 600 injuries per year
- You can't control what wildlife does, but you can take steps to reduce your risk of a collision
- Work-related motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause or traumatic workplace fatalities in BC

Why are these collisions hazardous?

Key points

- Wildlife collisions often happen with little or no warning and are traumatic for everyone involved
- Drivers, passengers, and animals can be injured by the initial impact
- Drivers may lose control of their vehicle and go off the road or hit another vehicle.



Where are these collisions most common?

Key points

Corridors with an increased risk of wildlife collisions often include:

- Along two-lane highways and roads connecting rural and suburban areas
- Where creeks and water sources cross roads
- Near good habitat and forage sites (green belts, parks, fields, and golf courses)
- Along wide, long, straight stretches of highway

When are these collisions most common?

Key points

- Collisions with wildlife can happen without warning

Daily peak periods

Animals are more active at dawn and dusk. Low light and reduced visibility make these times more hazardous. The peak periods for wildlife collisions in BC are between:

- 6 to 8 a.m.
- 5 to 8 p.m.

Seasonal peak periods

Animals have seasonal habits based on feeding and reproductive cycles. This can change their normal travel area and can result in them crossing roads more often. Seasonal peak periods in BC are:

- May: Increased collisions with deer
- June through July: Increased collisions with moose
- October through November: Increased collisions with deer
- December through January: Increased collisions with moose

How to prevent collisions with wildlife?

Key points

Adjust your driving habits

Watch for animal crossing signs in areas where collisions are common. When you see these signs, slow down and watch for wildlife.

Slow down

If you see an animal on the side of the road, slow down even more. Animals are unpredictable. When they appear to be leaving the road they may suddenly turn around and run in front of you. Where there is one animal there are often more nearby.

Watch other drivers

Pay attention to what other drivers are doing. If someone flashes their headlights at you, that may be a sign they've seen an animal nearby.

Plan your route

A trip planning program can help you plan the safest driving route. Avoid traveling through wildlife corridors during dawn and dusk. If you need to travel at that time, see if you can find an alternate route that avoids the wildlife areas.

Tailgate meeting activities and resources

[Wildlife Collision Prevention Program](#)

[Road Safety at Work webinar](#)

To report an animal that's been struck, use [Drive BC's online form](#) or phone a Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

Tailgate Meeting Guide



Tailgate meeting record form:

Date:	Time:	Location:
Supervisor:	Discussion leader(s):	
Topic:		
Handouts:		
Discussion:		
Follow-up item:	Completion date:	
Follow-up item:	Completion date:	
Follow-up item:	Completion date:	
Follow-up item:	Completion date:	
Follow-up item:	Completion date:	

Notes:

Tailgate meeting participants:

Name	Signature