



# Roadway Departure Crashes

## Stay Alive. Stay on the Road.



### The Leading Cause of Traffic Deaths in Ohio

When a vehicle leaves the road, the results can be deadly. Roadway departure crashes often occur at high speeds. They happen when a vehicle crosses an edge or center line causing a head-on collision or sideswipe, or runs off the road and hits a fixed object like a tree or pole. Usually speed, poor weather conditions like rain or fog, or fatigue and alcohol play a role in the crash.

### Roadway Departure Crashes – A Major Problem in Rural Areas

Nearly 65% of Ohio’s roadway departure crashes take place in rural areas, and in the majority of cases, the car or truck crashed into a fixed object or a ditch. Records show that people tend to drive faster on rural roads. Without sidewalks or broad, graded shoulders, drivers have little room for error if they lose control. Overhead lighting is often poor, compounding problems when it is dark.

### Every Move You Make – Keep it Safe

*Every Move You Make* is a statewide safety campaign designed to give you information to keep it safe on Ohio roadways. The goal is to reduce traffic fatalities five percent by 2015.

Visit [www.everymove.ohio.gov](http://www.everymove.ohio.gov) for tips and safe driving information.

### Did You Know?

Friday is the most common day for a roadway departure crash.

### Roadway Departure Crash Outcomes Between 2006-2010

Fatalities	3,023
Injuries	126,204
<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>	<b>293,085</b>

**TIPS ON AVOIDING ROADWAY  
DEPARTURE CRASHES**





# BE SAFE on the Road

## Reduce the Risk of a Roadway Departure Crash

- 1. PAY ATTENTION AND STAY ALERT.** When traveling a long distance, or alone, stay alert and pay attention. Stop for a cup of coffee or caffeinated beverage. Turn down the music, put down the cell phone and eat your food later. If you find yourself dozing off, stop and take a rest.

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- 2. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.** Alcohol slows your reaction time, among other things, and can impair your judgment. Plain and simple, don't drink and drive.

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- 3. BE AWARE OF SHARP CURVES.** Be aware when you are entering a curve; slow your speed, and stay in your lane. Pay attention to signs that caution you about dangerous curves. They can save your life.

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- 4. WATCH FOR SHOULDER DROP OFFS.** There is often a slight drop off at the edge of the road. If you veer off the road, don't panic and don't overcompensate by turning sharply on the steering wheel, slamming on the brakes or using the accelerator. The best course of action is to gradually steer back onto the road, gently straightening the steering wheel once the front tire is back on the pavement.

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- 5. SLOW DOWN WHEN ROAD CONDITIONS ARE POOR.** Water, snow and ice can cause your vehicle to slip and slide off the road, or out of your lane. When the weather is bad, drive slower than usual, and brake lighter and longer.

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- 6. OBEY PASSING REGULATIONS.** A solid yellow line means you do not have the proper sight distance to pass a vehicle. Don't second-guess the yellow line. It was put there by engineers who are experts in safety and road conditions. Don't pass when it isn't safe.

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- 7. OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT.** Speeding decreases your ability to control your vehicle and correct driving errors. Look for yellow advisory signs that post reduced speeds, particularly when approaching a curve.

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- 8. DRIVE WITH YOUR HIGH-BEAMS ON, WHEN NO TRAFFIC IS APPROACHING OR NO FOG IS PRESENT.** When it is dark, use your bright lights when no traffic is approaching. The high beams will light up the roadway and allow you to see what is ahead like animals, curves, slower cars, bicycles or pedestrians.