



# Canyon Driving

By Tom Davidson

# Attention activity-

- Stories about Sardine canyon accidents  
(These can be replaced by stories from your region)
- <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700006381/2-fatal-accidents-hit-Utah-within-an-hour.html>
- <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=1238285>
- Personal Experience near Vernal



# Main causes of Canyon Accidents

- Speed
- Weather conditions
- Wildlife
- Narrow and winding roads

# Speed

- Speeding, aside from driving under the influence of alcohol is one of the leading causes of highway collisions. It accounted for about 32 percent of all motor vehicle crash deaths.
- 4 Teens Die in speed related accident
- Spanish Fork accident



# Weather

- Driving too fast for the weather conditions plays a major role in fatal crashes each year, especially during the winter. UC Berkeley's traffic center says speed is the single greatest contributing factor to serious crashes--not so much the violation of a posted speed limit, but when drivers ignore weather or traffic conditions that require a reduced speed. [UTAH BASIC SPEED LAW](#)



**FAIL**



[failblog.org](http://failblog.org)



# Weather continued

- [Worst Day to Drive](#)
- [Google Street View](#) of Black Ice spot in Sardine canyon and Dry Lake (Replace with your own local bad road condition areas)

# Wildlife

- According to the Box Elder County Sherriff's office about 3/5 of accidents in Sardine Canyon involve wildlife
- [Deer Safety Video](#)



# Wildlife continued

- While driving this fall, AAA insurance agents recommend drivers keep the following tips in mind to stay safe on roadways.
  - Scan the road and shoulders ahead of you. Looking ahead helps provide enough reaction time if a deer is spotted. Also, remember deer often move in groups, so when there is one deer, there are usually more in the area.
  - Use high beam headlights if there is no oncoming traffic. Deer may be spotted sooner when using high beams allowing time to slow down, move over or beep to scare the deer away from the road.

# Wildlife continued

- If a collision is unavoidable, press the brakes firmly and remain in your lane. Swerving to avoid a deer can often cause a more serious crash or result in drivers losing control of vehicles.
- Drivers should always wear a seat belt and drivers should remain awake, alert and sober.
- **Deer in Utah / statistics**

## Narrow / winding Roads

- According to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration nearly **30% of fatal vehicle collisions each year happen on curves.** About 83% of these crashes on winding roads are roadway departures from sliding, skidding or rolling over.
- A study from Canada adds that most of these collisions are single car collisions.
- Another 2005 study in the U.S. found that "run-off-road" collisions were **30% of all fatal crashes, but only accounted for 16% of all crashes.**

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Watch Your Speed**

Remember there are two things you have less of on winding roads, visibility and control. This is why it is necessary to take a bend in the road at a slower speed than a straight road.



# Narrow / winding roads

- **Slow BEFORE entering a bend**

Just as in a turn, you should slow down before you enter a curve. This will probably mean braking on level ground or going downhill. It will mean lighter on the gas pedal going uphill.

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Coast until you reach the apex of the turn**  
Once you are into the bend, you should be off the brake unless it is a steep downhill. Do remember braking while in a curve or turn puts more stress on the brakes because of the pressure when turning the wheel. You shouldn't need the accelerator through the apex of a turn unless you are going uphill.

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Use a little speed out of the curve**  
this usually means using the gas pedal, if it is a downhill you will let slightly off the brake.

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Hug the center line especially on narrow roads** you find when driving through a left bend or right bend my vehicle drifts to the right. Keeping closer to the left line keeps you centered in the lane as you approach the apex of the curve.  
Also on winding roads keeping closer to the center line keeps you away from objects on the right shoulder that may come up unexpectedly such as pedestrians or parked cars.

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Check your rear view Mirrors on the straight part of a winding road BEFORE you enter the bend.**

It's especially important to be looking well ahead to see what direction the road goes and how wide or narrow the bend is.

It doesn't take much to lose car control when turning the steering wheel on a curvy road because you're glancing behind and missing what is ahead on the road.

# Narrow / winding roads

- **Head lights on especially on a curvy road.** Winding roads have a lot of shaded area because there are usually more trees. This makes it harder for other drivers to see you especially if the sun is in their eyes. Having your headlights on will make you much more visible to oncoming cars on a winding road.

# Other risk factors

- Lack of sleep
- aggressive driving / impatient lane change ([Daniels Canyon](#))
- Blind Turns ([Blacksmith fork canyon](#))
- Unsecured Loads
- Turning on and off road ([Logan Canyon](#))
- Road conditions (motorcycle and gravel)



# Other risk factors

- Distractions
- Slow moving traffic (plan ahead)
- Changing lanes in a turn ([Weber Canyon](#))
- Controlling downhill speed

# Conclusion

- Slow Down
- Avoid driving in bad weather
- Be attentive at all time
- Eliminate as many risk factors as possible
- Wear your seat belt.

# Five Questions

- 1. If a collision with a deer is unavoidable, what two steps should you do?
  - Answer- Press brake firmly and stay in lane. NEVER SWERVE
- 2. When driving in adverse conditions what speed law should we follow?
  - Answer- Utah Basic speed law

- 3. What is the single most contributing factor to traffic accidents?
  - Answer- Speed
- 4. When is the worst time to drive in the winter according to number of fatal traffic accidents?
  - Answer- The day after the first major storm of the year

# Five questions

- 5. What two things do you have less of when driving on a winding road?
- Answer- Visibility and control