

# ROADSIDE HAZARDS

## 1998

### National Statistics

- About a third of motor vehicle deaths involve vehicles leaving the roadway and hitting fixed objects such as trees or utility poles alongside the road. (*IIHS*)
- Alcohol is a frequent contributing factor in these crashes. Motorists also run off the road because of excessive speed, fatigue, or inattention. (*IIHS*)
- 11,809 people died in roadside hazard crashes in 1998. (*USDOT*)
- The proportion of motor vehicle deaths involving roadside hazards has remained between 28% and 30% since 1979. (*USDOT*)
- Roadside hazard crashes are more likely to occur on curves and/or downhill road sections. (*IIHS*)
- More than a third of roadside hazard crashes involve a vehicle that rolls over and another third involve occupant ejection. (*IIHS*)
- Trees are the most common objects struck in roadside hazard crashes. (*IIHS*)
- Forty-eight percent of deaths in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 occurred on major roads, 34% occurred on minor roads, and 18% occurred on freeways including interstates. (*USDOT*)
- Fifty-five percent of deaths in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 occurred on roads with speed limits of 55 mph or faster. (*USDOT*)
- Sixty-six percent of deaths in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 occurred on rural roads, 43% occurred on curves, and 17% occurred on wet or slippery roads. (*USDOT*)
- Ninety-seven percent of roadside hazard crash deaths in 1998 occurred in single-vehicle crashes, 40% involved vehicles rolling over, and 32% involved occupant ejection. (*USDOT*)
- Two-thirds of deaths in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 occurred in frontal impacts. (*USDOT*)

- Twenty-eight percent of deaths in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 involved a vehicle striking a tree, 10% involved embankments, and 10% involved guard rails. (*USDOT*)
- Drivers of 43% of the vehicles in fatal roadside hazard crashes in 1998 were men younger than 35 years of age. (*USDOT*)
- Forty-three percent of drivers killed in roadside hazard crashes in 1998 had blood alcohol concentrations at or above 0.10 percent. (*USDOT*)
-