



NEWS FROM
ULSTER COUNTY
County Executive Jen Metzger

******For Immediate Release******

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Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Urges Caution of Seasonal Risks Amid Fall Travel

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Traffic Safety Board would like to remind the public that the fall season brings with it many changes that can affect traffic safety. The Traffic Safety Board encourages Ulster County residents to stay vigilant, be aware, and use caution when using public roadways so that everyone can safely get to where they're going.

Please keep the following facts in mind while traveling throughout the Hudson Valley this season:

- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 5, meaning longer nights and sunsets before 5:00 pm. Drivers can have trouble adjusting to the new sleep schedule and may become drowsy.
- Deer activity rises dramatically during the months of October and November as hunting and mating season begins, and collisions between deer and vehicles increase by as much as 16% in the week after the time change. Animals are particularly active at sunrise and sunset, which is when crashes are most likely to occur. In 2022, there were 920 automobile collisions with deer and other animals in Ulster County.
- October is National Pedestrian Safety Month! Motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists should remember to 'See and Be Seen!'
 - Drivers should expect pedestrians and bikes at any time and place – stay off your phone and obey speed limits.
 - Regardless of the right-of-way, the driver is required by law to avoid striking a pedestrian or cyclist.
 - Pedestrians should never assume that a driver has seen them. Establish eye contact or adjust your activity to make sure drivers are aware of your presence.
 - Wear light-colored clothing and add reflective material to increase visibility – especially when walking at night.

- Fall is harvest season in the Hudson Valley, so expect slow-moving farm vehicles entering and exiting the highway. Be patient and pass with care.
- Ulster County is beautiful in the fall and many visitors may not be familiar with our local roads – please be a patient and courteous driver.
- Leaves and debris are likely to be on the highway – when wet, leaves can be as slippery as snow and ice. It’s also illegal under NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law to move any debris, including yard waste and snow, onto the highway.

Slow Down – Use Caution – Be Alert
The life you save could be your own!

The purpose of the **Ulster County Traffic Safety Board (TSB)** is to advance traffic and transportation safety – including pedestrian and non-motorized transport – through study, advocacy, and public education, prioritizing safety concerns based on relative risk to people using major modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and/or other non-motorized and motorized transport.

In 2022, there were a total of 5,205 crashes on Ulster County roadways; 197 of those crashes involved serious injuries and 14 were fatal. More information can be found on the Ulster County Fatal and Serious Injury Crash Dashboard at:

<https://ulstercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6994b9dc780f4b249738cec4ffbd4c59>

The TSB typically meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers on the 6th floor of the Ulster County Office Building at 244 Fair Street, Kingston. Meetings are open to the public and every meeting begins with an opportunity for public comment where citizens are encouraged to voice their concerns regarding traffic safety. Meeting agendas are available on the web at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board>.

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