Driving Change: Safe Driving Habits Survey Results

Q3 2025

Executive Summary

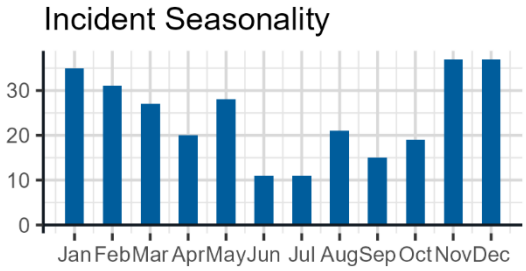
Each year, numerous work-related fatalities, serious incidents and injuries occur behind the wheel. The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB) projects that motor vehicle-related fatalities and serious injuries will become the leading cause of work-related claims in the province by 2025.

In response to growing concerns about vehicle-related incidents, Energy Safety Canada Saskatchewan (ESC SK) launched the *Driving Change: Safe Driving Habits* pilot project. This initiative analyzed 300 driving incidents submitted by workers in the energy industry, aiming to identify patterns and contributing factors behind motor vehicle near misses and incidents. The findings will help guide targeted safety improvements and will be shared with Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board to support broader safety initiatives across the province.

The analysis revealed key trends including seasonal driving risks, commuting challenges, wildlife encounters and environmental influences. These insights support the development of practical strategies to enhance driver safety and reduce the frequency of incidents across Saskatchewan's energy sector.

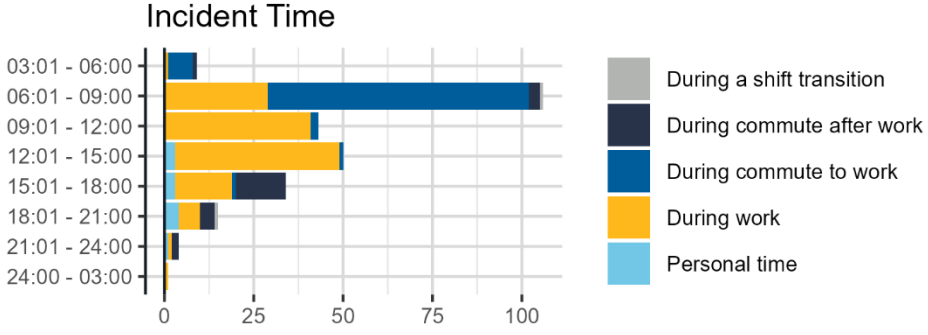
Key Findings

Seasonal and Commuting Risk Patterns



Incident Frequency Peaks in Early Winter: A significantly higher proportion of incidents occurred in November and December, indicating elevated risk during the early winter months. This trend was especially evident during morning commutes, when compromised road conditions and limited visibility posed greater risks.

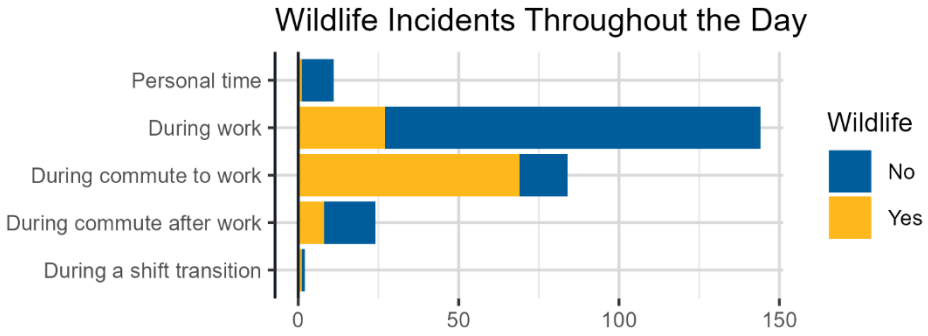
Commuting Periods Are High-Risk: The morning commute appeared to be the riskiest time of day, accounting for a disproportionate number of incidents—particularly those involving wildlife and poor lighting. The after-work commute may also present risks; current data suggests it may be underrepresented, highlighting the need for closer analysis.



Wildlife Involvement

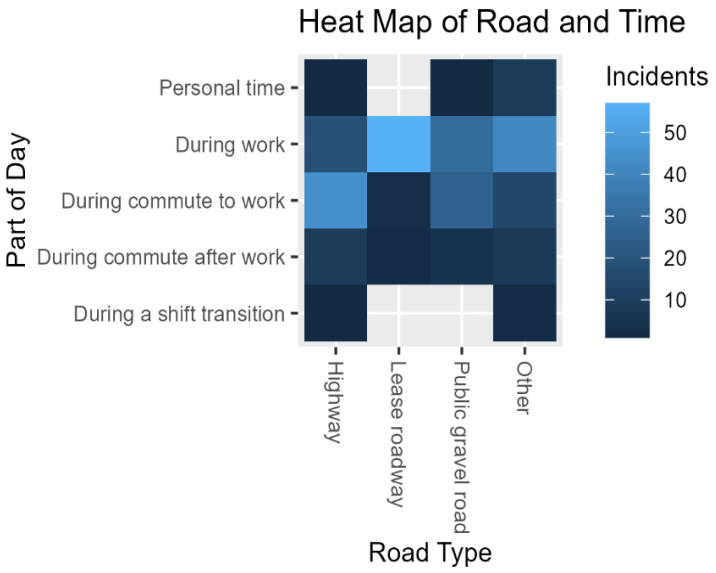
Wildlife as a Contributing Factor: Nearly half of the reported incidents involved wildlife.

Areas of Wildlife Risk: Wildlife-related incidents are most prevalent during commute periods, particularly in the early morning. These encounters are primarily concentrated on highways and public gravel roads, indicating that travel routes with higher speeds and rural surroundings pose increased risk for wildlife collisions.



Road Type and Part of Day

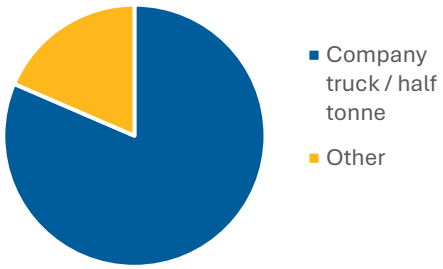
Highway vs. Lease Road Incidents: Incident patterns vary by road type. Highway incidents are predominantly linked to commuting, especially during early morning hours when visibility may be reduced. In contrast, lease road incidents occur almost exclusively during work hours. These findings indicate that highways could pose a greater risk during low-light conditions, while lease roads present consistent risks throughout the workday.



Additional Areas of Interest

Vehicle, Trailer and Cargo Involvement

Vehicle Types: 80 per cent of reported incidents involved half tonne trucks, indicating a high exposure rate for this vehicle category. The remaining 20 per cent of vehicles were commercial and passenger vehicles.



Trailers and Cargo: 10 per cent of incidents involved a trailer, and the cargo was noted for those incidents. The most common types of cargo were fluids and mounted equipment.

Incident Type Classification

Struck an Object and Near Misses: The majority of incidents were categorized as "Struck an object," with wildlife commonly identified as the object involved. The remaining incidents were primarily classified as near misses, typically involving evasive actions to avoid contact with an object or the potential to strike an object.

Rollover and Jackknife: Non-collision incidents included a notable number of rollovers, with a smaller number of jackknife incidents.

Recommendations

Energy Safety Canada's Life Saving Rules: Consider adopting the Driving Life Saving Rule. This rule emphasizes critical behaviours such as wearing a seatbelt, not exceeding speed limits and adjusting speed to road conditions, avoiding distractions while driving, being fit, rested and fully alert, and following journey management plans.

Reduce Distracted Driving: Organizations should proactively design systems that account for human limitations to reduce the risk of distracted driving. This includes discouraging the use of mobile devices or monitoring Electronic Logging Devices while driving. It is essential to ensure drivers are not pressured by unrealistic schedules or expectations that encourage multitasking behind the wheel. Finally, fostering a culture where reporting is encouraged and events are used as learning opportunities can support continuous improvement.

Seasonal Safety Campaigns: Launch targeted safety messaging in November and December, focusing on winter driving hazards and wildlife awareness.

Commuting Risk Mitigation: Encourage safe commuting practices by tailoring defensive driving content to early morning conditions, when wildlife activity and low-light visibility increase risk. Consider flexible scheduling or route planning to reduce exposure during high-risk times.

Wildlife Management Strategies: Explore the use of wildlife detection systems to provide real-time alerts to drivers. Ensure clear and visible warning signage is placed along high-risk routes. Educate drivers on common regional wildlife species, their seasonal movement patterns and peak activity times to help reduce collision risks.

Data Quality Improvements: Encourage consistent reporting of after-work commute incidents. Improved data collection supports learning from normal work and helps identify patterns that may not be visible through isolated events.

Conclusion

The survey results emphasize how driving incident risks are influenced by time of day, seasonal patterns and environmental conditions. Through targeted safety initiatives and improved data collection, the energy sector can proactively enhance driver safety and reduce the likelihood of future incidents.

Resources

To support continuous safety improvements, Energy Safety Canada offers the following tools and guides and courses:

- Oilfield Driver Awareness (ODA)
- Journey Management: A Program Development Guide
- Fatigue Risk Management: A Program Development Guide
- Canadian Model for Providing a Safe Workplace

ESC Corporate Profile

ENERGY INDUSTRY'S SAFETY ALLY

For over 75 years, Energy Safety Canada has been the national safety association for Canada's energy industry. Created by industry, for industry, we are dedicated to keeping energy workers safe and driving safety performance.

What We Do:

- Deliver industry-recognized training to meet industry needs.
- Collaborate with industry to drive continuous safety improvements.
- Provide safety and labour market data, insights and tools.
- Serve as the industry certifying partner for the Certificate of Recognition program.

Proudly Serving Our Industry

We are proud to work on behalf of Canada's energy industry associations.

CAGC 45 · CAOEC Canadian Association of Energy Contractors · CAPP · ENSERVA · EPAC · Pathways Alliance