U.S. ARMY

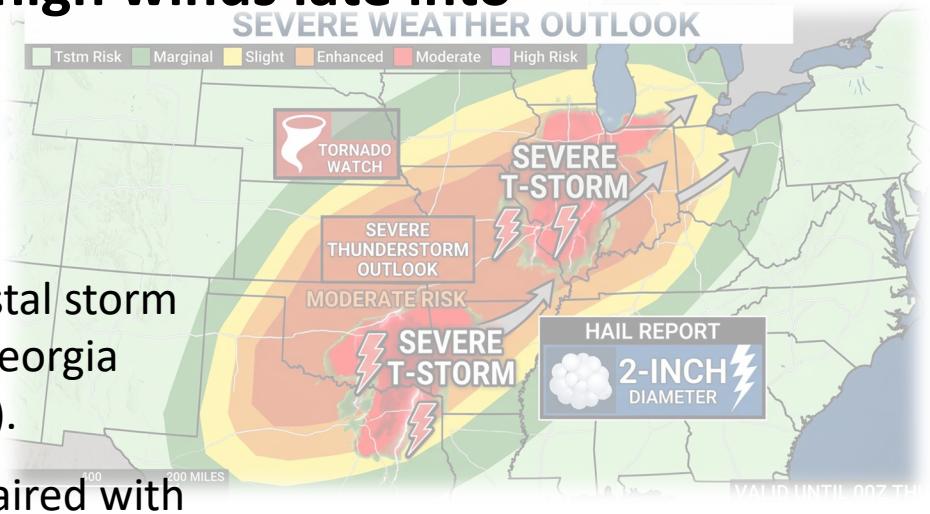
Autumn Safety

WE ARE THE ARMY'S HOME

Garrison Safety Office (GSO)
U.S. Army Installation Management Command

Staying Secure as the Coast and Plains Cool Down

Hurricane season doesn't end until November 30. Southeast Georgia often experiences severe tropical systems, coastal flooding, and high winds late into autumn.



- **Monitor Warnings:** Stay updated on coastal storm surges and flood warnings through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA).
- **Falling Tree Risks:** Saturated sandy soil paired with autumn winds can easily bring down mature pines and live oaks. Avoid parking under large trees during storms.
- **Emergency Kit:** Ensure your emergency kit is still fully stocked with fresh water, flashlights, and batteries.

Late-Season Hurricane & Severe Weather Safety

Hurricane Helene ravaged the east coast of the US and entered the Appalachia Mountains, bringing destruction and death in her wake.

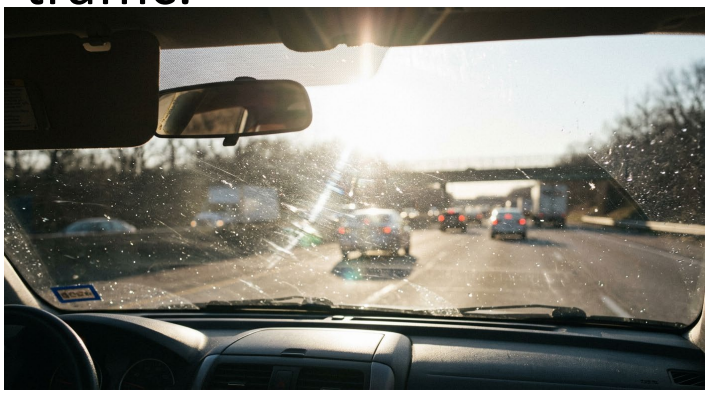
- Severe Storm Surge: Helene produced a devastating storm surge of 12 to 16 feet along Florida's Big Bend coast.
- Inland Flooding: The storm's rapid movement and massive moisture field led to historic, catastrophic river flooding and landslides in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee

Real Image of Hurricane Helene

Real Image of I-40. Still under construction for years to come.

Autumn Roadway & Driving Hazards

Shorter days mean rush-hour commuting takes place in the dark, and local agricultural harvesting increases large vehicle traffic.

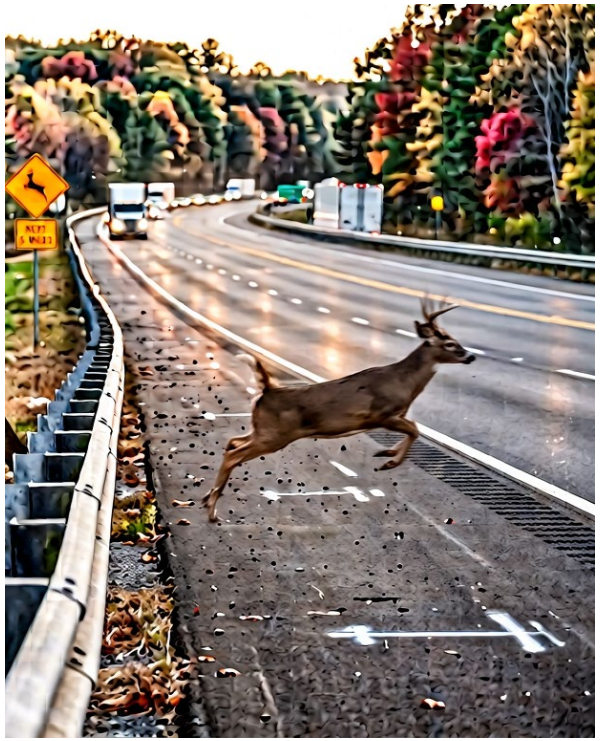


Sun Glare: Intense low-angle sun glare during early mornings can blind drivers on east-west roads like I-16. Keep sunglasses close.

Fallen Foliage: Wet, compacted pine needles and leaves on the road act exactly like ice, causing vehicles to hydroplane.

Harvesting Equipment: Be patient with slow-moving tractors and log trucks on rural state routes.

Wildlife Awareness & Deer Activity



Autumn is the peak breeding and migrating season for local wildlife, causing a sharp rise in animal-vehicle collisions.

- **Peak Hours:** Be highly alert for deer crossing from **dusk until dawn**.
- **The Group Rule:** Deer rarely travel alone. If one crosses the road, expect more to follow immediately.
- **Don't Swerve:** If a collision is inevitable, brake firmly but stay in your lane to avoid flipping or hitting oncoming traffic.

Home & Fire Safety

As the first cool fronts arrive, locals turn on older heating systems or gather around fire pits, increasing residential fire risks.

- **HVAC Maintenance:** Schedule a professional inspection of your heating unit before running it for the first time.
- **Smoke Alarms:** Test alarms and change out batteries when daylight saving time ends.
- **Yard Debris:** Avoid leaf burning on windy days, as spark drift can trigger fast-moving brush fires in dry pine turf.

Slip and Fall Prevention (Outdoors)

Morning dew, coastal fog, and fallen leaves create a major slipping hazard on walkways, decks, and stairs.

Keep Paths Clear: Keep driveways, patios, and sidewalks raked and clear of wet leaves and pine straw.
Lighting: Ensure outdoor pathways are properly lit for early darkness.

Summary & Emergency Resources

- Stay weather-alert through November.
- Drive defensively against glare, leaves, and deer.
- Prepare your home heating and smoke detectors early.

- **Local Helpline Contacts:**
  - **Emergency Services:** 911
  - **Georgia Poison Center:** 1-800-222-1222
  - **Georgia Forestry Commission (Burn Permits):** GaTrees.org

Fall Protection

Pun Intended

Fall Protection (OSHA 29 CFR 1910)

Elevation Thresholds & Regulatory Triggers

Operational Setting	Trigger Height	Governing Reference	Mandatory Requirement
General Workplaces / Operations	**4 feet (1.2 m)**	**OSHA 29 CFR 1910 / DA PAM 385-10**	**Guardrails, safety covers, or approved PFAS**
Construction & Maintenance	6 feet (1.8 m)	USACE EM 385-1-1 / OSHA 29 CFR 1926	Fall Protection Plan and active restraint/arrest
Scaffolding Operations	10 feet (3.0 m)	USACE EM 385-1-1 Section 21	Complete guardrail system or certified harness tie-off
Dangerous Equipment / Pits	Any height	All applicable DoD/OSHA standards	Immediate physical guarding regardless of elevation

References:
OSHA reference 1910.28 and USAG Safety SOP-Annex U-Fall Protection and Ladder Safety

Fall Protection (OSHA 29 CFR 1910)

Hierarchy of Controls for Fall Hazards

Priority Level	Control Method	Practical Application	Risk Reduction
1. Elimination	Design hazard out	Lower components to ground level before servicing	Complete removal of fall hazard
2. Passive Protection	Physical barriers	Install certified perimeter guardrails and hole covers	Does not rely on user action or harness
3. Fall Restraint	Travel restriction	Static lanyard adjusted to prevent reaching edge	Prevents free fall from ever occurring
4. Fall Arrest	Arrest active drop	Full-body harness, shock-absorbing lanyard, anchor	Halts worker after fall; requires rescue plan
5. Administrative	Training & procedures	Designated safety monitors, warning lines, briefs	Relies solely on worker compliance

Fall Protection (OSHA 29 CFR 1910)

Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS): The "ABCDE" Framework

Component	Definition	Field Verification Rule
A – Anchorage	Structural tie-off point	Must support 5,000 lbs (22.2 kN) per worker attached or be engineered with a safety factor of 2:1.
B – Body Harness	Full-body fall arrest harness	Ensure dorsal D-ring sits centered between shoulder blades. Body belts are prohibited for fall arrest.
C – Connectors	Lanyards, carabiners, snap-hooks	Must be self-locking and auto-closing. Inspect webbing for fraying, chemical damage, and stitch integrity.
D – Deceleration	Shock absorber / Self-Retracting Lifeline	Calculate total fall clearance: Free Fall Distance + Deceleration Distance + Harness Stretch + Safety Margin (min. 3 ft).
E – Emergency Rescue	Written, rapid recovery procedure	Must execute retrieval within 10–15 minutes to prevent life-threatening suspension trauma.

Fall Protection (OSHA 29 CFR 1910)

Critical Watch-Outs & Common Pitfalls

Pitfall	Operational Impact	Corrective Measure
Improper Anchor Selection	Connecting to handrails, conduits, or plumbing pipes	Tie off only to certified structural members or tested mobile anchor systems.
Insufficient Clearance	Worker hits the ground before the lanyard fully deploys	Calculate fall distance before donning gear, factoring in shock pack elongation.
Swing Hazard	Working too far lateral to the anchor point creates pendulum fall	Keep anchor directly overhead within a 30-degree cone of the work zone.
Neglected Daily Inspections	Undetected UV degradation, broken stitching, or prior drop impact	Perform user pre-use inspection daily; remove tagged or expired gear immediately.

Questions?