

# Highway 70 Hazards

## “Rules to drive and stay alive” by the PG&E DeSabra Grass Roots Team

- 1) **Use the Smith 5 rules**-Aim High, Keep your eyes moving, Get the big picture, Make sure you are seen, space cushion-leave an out.
- 2) **Third party vehicles**-Look ahead before entering tunnels and slow your entry to let oncoming vehicles clear before you enter (think Grizzly Dome tunnel). There are many “blind spots” in the canyon. Watch for oncoming traffic for at least 5 seconds (up to 10 seconds at some locations) before pulling out. In some locations you may need to roll your windows down and listen for oncoming traffic before pulling out. **Try to avoid passing in the canyon.** Do not pass a vehicle that uses a turnout but does not apply their brakes-they may force you out into oncoming traffic. If you get stuck behind a slow vehicle stay calm. It’s no problem to arrive a little late....as long as you arrive. YT’s rule→follow a lower vehicle in the canyon!
- 3) **Debris**-Freezes, high winds and heavy rain will bring debris onto highway. Slow down and use extra caution during these conditions.
- 4) **Bridges**-Use “Standard bridge protocol”: Slow to let oncoming vehicles clear the bridge to avoid getting “squeezed”. Assume big rigs will crowd or come over the center line. Assume the bridge is icy or slick during cold and wet weather-slow down and “straighten your line” to avoid sharp turns on the bridge.
- 5) **Blind corners**-you have no idea what is around the next one so slow down!
- 6) **Stay "cut in" when driving the canyon.** Scan the road as far ahead as possible. Limit distractions and sightseeing. Let passengers enjoy the views while you focus on the road!
- 7) **Spring/Summer hazards**- Use LED flares or reflective triangles during dry conditions. If you see a flare (or remnant of a flare) slows down immediately! Tourists and fishermen will stop at odd and dangerous locations to take pictures and sight see during the Spring and Summer Months. We need to slow down because we can’t train them all! Several bike tours can come through the canyon during the Summer. Call any bike group in on the radio using TG 6511 so other drivers are aware. Caribou road is crawling campers and their kids in the Summer and PG&E vehicles need to slow down to compensate!
- 8) **Avoid swerving aggressively** to miss animals, vegetables, minerals or vehicles. If you do go off the road, slow the vehicle to a safe speed before attempting to come back on the highway. Beware of over correction. Many vehicles are damaged on the uphill side and totaled when they over correct and shoot across the highway to the down hill side. Keeping your vehicle on the uphill side can save your life!
- 9) **Use available PPE like reflective vests, flares, head lamps and hard hats so you are seen when working near the highway.** Blind corners are extremely hazardous and require extra caution!
- 10) **Use the radio to communicate dangerous conditions to fellow employees on talk group 6511 after finding a safe place to pull over.** Call in road hazards to Switching Center-provide milepost marker, landmark, size of debris, nature of hazard or incident, possible injuries and lane blockage.

### Butte County

<u>PostMile</u>	<u>Landmark</u>	<u>Safety Notes:</u>
26.47	Durham Pentz Rd	East bound-Morning sun in your eyes in late Spring and Summer. West bound-steeply sloped corner onto Pentz. Slow down!
27.50	Cherokee Rd	Watch out for side traffic. Difficult to see in morning-don't pass!
28.22	West Branch Bridge Orov Lake	Black ice in Winter use caution on entry/exit

29.51	Truex Rd	Deer area and some side traffic
31.22	Yankee Hill Rd	Deer area and some side traffic
31.65	Lunt Rd/Observation Point	Side traffic pulling out of Vista Point parking-use it for cell calls
34.01	Big Bend Rd	Deer area and side traffic
35.00	Rock House	Ice, tight cambered corners and rocks
35.37	CDF Station	Get help here if no cell or radio available.
36.30	Grand View	Don't risk passing unless vehicle uses pullout and brakes hard!
39.15	Bardees Bar	Very Windy
41.00	Pulga Bridge	Black Ice brake to allow vehicles to clear before entering bridge
41.40	Four Trees RD	Blackberry bushes, bear hunters, cranksters and quads!
42.11	Cal Trans Station	Don't pass unless they brake hard in the pullout!
42.12	Beer Can Beach	Watch drunks rope swing all day...then pull out on the highway!
42.54	Poe Dam	Difficult access from highway. Don't turn down stream on exit.
44.25	Cresta PH	Dangerous entry and exit from highway. Use caution
46.80	Shady Rest Area	Bathrooms. Use caution if passing. Pedestrians.
47.15	Arch Rock Tunnel	Rock falling from hill sides. Turn on lights before entering tunnel.
47.73	Onion skin slide	Rain=rocks. Dangerous to pass-blind spot on highway.
48.0	Butte/Plumas County Line	Rocks....and did I already say rocks?

## Plumas

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Landmark</u>	
0.73	Grizzly Dome Tunnel.	Look upstream and allow vehicles to clear corner before entering tunnel.
0.99	Elephant Butte Tunnel	Keep lights on throughout canyon. Watch for rocks here.
1.23	Cresta dam	Very dangerous to enter highway here. Use spotter or roll The windows down and listen for oncoming traffic when leaving.
3.07	Rock Creek Bridge	Hydroplane area upstream of bridge during heavy rain.
4.00	Rock Creek PH	Many vehicles park very close to highway traffic. Slow down!
5.58	Storrie Bridge	Standard bridge protocol
6.26	Rock Crest Camp	Soon to be renovated and available..a real bargain at \$40/month!
6.82	Tobin	Multiple drownings here. Warn anyone in a swim suit.
8.23	Injun Jim School	Deer like to jump out in the road here for some strange reason.
9.90	Rodgers Flat	Step on it when pulling out heading down stream!
12.13	Rock Creek Dam	Lots of accidents between Rock Creek Dam and Rflat...slow down!
13.97	Maggies	A cozy wood fired hot tub out front...(bring your own chlorine!)
14.96	Belden Town	Weekend Rave parties in the Summer...who would believe it?
16.59	Caribou Rd jct	Blind spot. Watch upstream for 10 seconds before pulling out
17.04	NF51/Swimming hole	Blind steep corner coming down canyon. Lots of Big rig wrecks on decreasing radius. Use caution here!
19.54	Serpentine canyon/rock pit	Rocks and more rocks
23.67	Rush Creek Bridge	Icy in Winter. Use Standard bridge protocol.
33.00	Greenville Y.	No cell service? There is part of a pay phone here!