



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Halloween, Defensive Driving

Many Halloween-related injuries can be prevented during trick-or-treat activities.

The MaineDOT suggests:

- When walking use flashlights and stay on sidewalks (or shoulders if no sidewalks exist)
Never cross between parked cars.
- Consider using face paint instead of masks in order to maximize vision
- Avoid wearing long, baggy, or loose costumes or oversized shoes to prevent tripping

If you're driving the kids on Halloween:

- Drive carefully, paying close attention to the road and activity on both sides
- Enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully
- If you are driving kids trick-or-treating, have them enter and exit the vehicle from the curb side
- When stopping, do not block the road or regular vehicular traffic, and stop where approaching traffic will see you and the trick-or-treaters

Be a Road Model: have a safe and fun Halloween

Defensive driving can save your life. In today's Flash Facts, the MaineDOT reminds you that vehicle crashes can be devastating - even when you've done nothing wrong. That's why defensive driving is such an important habit. Even if you're a perfect driver, others aren't. Here are some tips to keep you safe:

- Watch the road well ahead of (and behind) you. One thing to look out for is vehicles that may be close to or moving over the center line
- Be especially alert when weather conditions are poor, since unanticipated skids and loss of control by another driver are all too common

This information is provided by MaineDOT, for further safety information contact 207-624-3278



- Don't expect other drivers to be perfect. Anticipate their mistakes - - it will make you a better driver
- Avoid driving mistakes yourself, so you don't become a danger to another road user

Drive Defensively, and always wear your seat belts.

Defensive driving is important for safe driving in Maine. There are 100 crashes each day on Maine roads -- many of them could be prevented by defensive driving. A few of the easiest defenses:

- FIRST, always wear your seat belt
- Avoid driving errors when you're behind the wheel
- Before you head into an intersection, make sure traffic has stopped in all directions. It's becoming more and more common to see vehicles running red lights after they change - especially in larger Maine towns and cities
- When you're going through an intersection, take your foot off the gas and hold it over the brake. This allows you to react more quickly if someone else makes a mistake
- If someone is tailgating you, pull over when safe to do so and let them pass. It's much less aggravating for both of you
- Constantly scan the road ahead, the road sides, and your mirrors to anticipate problems that you may need to react to

Don't be one of those 100 daily crashes - Drive to prevent a crash and always wear your seat belts.