



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: New Years Holiday Safety

Nearly 250 crashes involving alcohol or drugs occurred in Maine between Christmas and New Years Day over the past five years. In these crashes, 2 people died and another 160 were injured.

The MaineDOT wants to remind you to be safe this holiday season:

- This New Year's, celebrate and enjoy being with friends and family, but **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**.
- If you plan to drink, line up a designated driver before going out, or stay overnight.
- Here are some Maine Law Reminders: No driver or passenger can consume alcohol or possess an open alcoholic container, and if you are under 21 and found with any blood alcohol content, you can have severe penalties including loss of driver's license for at least one year, a stiff fine and possible jail time.
- Maine Law considers drivers over 21 years old to be under the influence if their blood alcohol content is 0.08%. Those convicted lose their license, receive stiff fines and may serve jail time.

New Year's Eve is just around the corner!
Make a resolution to Be a Road Model.

Based on recent crash trends, the MaineDOT offers the following resolutions to help keep travelers safe:

- Travel at a speed that's right for the conditions. Obey the speed limit and adjust according to snow, ice, wet roads, darkness and fog. That means slow down, and depending on road conditions, that speed reduction may need to be significant.
- When you're driving, just drive! Stay focused on the task of driving so that you have the quickest reaction time.
- Watch the road well ahead for potential problems such as animals, other vehicles, pedestrians and changing road conditions.



Make a New Year's resolution to Be a Road Model.

The MaineDOT offers some tips to remember as part of your New Year's resolution:

- Keep your eyes on the road, and get the whole driving picture. Regularly scan the road ahead, the sides of the road, and check your mirrors. Anticipate what may happen next.
- Maintain a safe following distance and increase that distance when weather, visibility or road conditions are poor.
- Despite driving mistakes made by others on the road, keep your cool.
- Be courteous to all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up!

Be a Road Model: Resolve not to become a crash statistic – Drive safely all year and always wear your seat belt.