



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Thanksgiving Holiday Safety

Over 600 crashes occur each year in Maine over Thanksgiving weekend. These crashes resulted in an average of 2 fatalities and 250 injuries. Make sure your vehicle is in good shape before making your trip to see friends or family.

The MaineDOT offers the following pre-trip vehicle checklist:

- Are all your vehicle fluids at proper levels?
- How are your tires?
- Are your brakes functioning properly?
- Have you been delaying any repairs? Get them done!
- Have you packed your vehicle safely so you can still have clear visibility and luggage is secure?

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and many people will be taking long trips to see family and friends.

The real key to crash prevention is safe driving behavior. Here are some reminders from the MaineDOT to keep you safe on the road:

- Be rested before taking the wheel
- Check weather reports—road conditions and change fast. (Weather has a big bearing on the likelihood of crashes—Last year's holiday weekend saw 2 and a half times the number of crashes than an average thanksgiving weekend due to snowy weather conditions.)
- Check www.511.maine.gov or dial 5-1-1 for the latest road information
- Driving is a full-time task. Don't be distracted
- Maintain safe speeds and allow plenty of stopping distance
- Adjust that speed if roads are wet, snowy, or icy
- Allow extra time for holiday traffic.
- Take regular rest breaks
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Make sure everyone is buckled up.



The holiday weekend, traffic may be congested. Here are some reminders to keep you safe on the road.

When you are out traveling this long weekend, the MaineDOT would like you to remember the following:

- Prepare for traffic delays by giving yourself plenty of travel time. Don't let the delays get the better of your emotions – enjoy the ride!
- Drive at a safe speed and maintain a safe following distance.
- Watch out for moose and deer
- Check your local weather and the predicted conditions for your entire route and adjust your schedule to match these conditions
- Watch for pedestrians
- Get plenty of rest before you head out

Be a Road Model: Slow down and be courteous this Thanksgiving weekend, and remember to use your seat belt.