



Maine DOT Flash Facts

Topic-Emergency Related Safety Tips

Flash Facts

Road shoulders are not a safe place to stop for help. Fatalities result every year due to people waiting on the shoulder. Here are some tips from the Maine DOT if you need to get your vehicle off the road:

- Get completely off the road, and as far away from traffic as possible.
- Turn on your emergency flashers.
- Get vehicle occupants to a safe location.
- Call 911 for help.
- Watch out for traffic.

Flash Facts:

This week MaineDOT Flash Facts are about road emergencies. Be a Road Model and avoid being the cause of a road emergency caused by a crash or breakdown by remembering the following driver tips:

- Make sure your vehicle is well maintained – don't put off necessary repairs.
- Drive as though your life depends on it (because it does!) -- travel at a safe speed, maintain a safe following distance, avoid distractions and watch traffic and road conditions in all directions.
- Be well rested
- Be alcohol and drug-free

Preventable problems on the road can be costly and time consuming.

MaineDOT Flash Facts are about road emergencies. Paid and Volunteer emergency responders can be on the road at any time. They provide essential safety services. They may be responding to a fire, medical emergency or a public safety issue. In each of these situations, lives may be at stake, and seconds can make the difference. Drivers need to be prepared for these emergency responders. Yielding to emergency vehicles is required by law. Here are some reminders:



- **Watch** the road for emergency vehicles. Check your mirrors regularly. Slowing traffic movement or vehicles pulling over are additional indicators that an unusual situation exists and you'll need to react too.
- **Listen** for sirens. Rolled up windows and loud music can block outside emergency warnings. Distractions can also draw your attention away from what's happening on the road. Remember that being able to hear those outside sounds can help save your life and others.
- **Pull over** early and where it's safe to do so, to let emergency vehicles safely pass. Make sure the road is clear before returning to your lane.

Intersections can be particularly dangerous for emergency vehicle travel, so be watching **and** listening when you pass through, even *if* you have the right of way.

Be a Road Model and pull to the right and stop, help emergency vehicles get through traffic safely and always wear your seatbelt.