



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Driver Courtesy

There are no statistics on how often driver discourtesy happens on the road, but we all can recall instances where, intentionally or not, we or other drivers were behaving badly. This bad behavior can put you, and others, in danger.

Driving takes cooperation, communication, and not creating any surprises on the road. Here are some driving courtesies to remember from the MaineDOT:

- Use directional signals in advance of turns and lane changes.
- When turning, leaving a driving or parking place, don't cut in front of others. Wait for an adequate gap in traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals. Come to a full stop at stop signs. Only make a right turn at a red light when it is safe and legal to do so.
- Always dim your headlights for the vehicle ahead and oncoming traffic.
- Maintain a safe following distance.

These are not just nice things to do, in most cases, they're the law. In all cases, these actions will reduce your risk of a crash.

While the concept of courtesy is probably not the first item on your safe driving list, without it, driving would be chaotic and downright dangerous. A discourteous action on the road (even if was not intentional) can really upset other drivers. Here are some tips from the MaineDOT to avoid flared emotions:

- Remember that driving requires cooperation and communication with other road users
- Ask Yourself: Can other drivers tell what you intend to do based on your speed, lane position, and use of signals?
- Are you obeying road signs, signals and the rules of the road?
- Is your trip planned out so you know where to turn and where you're stopping?
- Are you distractions putting you in danger and upsetting other drivers?
- Being discourteous to other travelers can lead to anger, retaliation, road rage and crashes.

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



- Avoid frustrating other drivers and creating dangerous situations by allowing faster moving traffic to pass
 - Merge properly
 - Maintain a safe following distance
 - Travel at a safe speed and share the road with other travelers.
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Many drivers don't even realize that their actions can appear rude to other drivers. Remember, what you do (or don't do) on the road can help other drivers ---or frustrate them. Poor communication and driver discourtesy can lead to confusion, frustration or possibly, a crash.

On the road, courtesy will be dictated by driver factors like these:

- Attention to the driving task is important. Inattention or distractions that lead to driver errors are seen by other drivers as discourteous.
- Emotions or mood can lead to aggressive driving styles. Make sure you are not upset
- as you start to drive, because when drivers are emotional, courtesy tends to be the last thing on their mind.
- When you are behind the wheel, check your attitude. Being angry or upset often translates to aggressive driving - which is dangerous for everyone.
- Are you thinking about other road users and that the way you drive will affect them and the driving decisions they'll need to make?

Be a Road Model: Safe driving requires that you keep your mind on the driving and your emotions in check.