



## MaineDOT Flash Facts

### Topic: Night Driving

#### Crash Facts In Maine, from 2002 to 2004:

- About 31,000 crashes occurred after dark. More than 200 people were killed and more than 11,000 were injured.
- Another 8,000 crashes occurred during dawn and dusk. Forty people were killed and more than 3,000 injured.

In total, more than 40% of Maine crash **deaths** occur between dusk and dawn.

Night time is especially dangerous for Animals crashes, especially fatal crashes.

#### For 2002 through 2004:

Dusk to Dawn Animal crash occurrences:

**DEER** -Over 80% (8,531 out of 10,417)

**MOOSE** - Nearly 90% (1,731 out of 2,006)

#### Other Night Facts:

136 crash fatalities occur between 9PM and 3AM. (More than 20% of all crash fatalities)

61 fatalities occurred between midnight and 3AM. That's 10% of the state's fatalities occurring when only about 1% of the state's daily traveling is done. These are dangerous hours – so please slow down at night.

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Driving at night...you've got the road almost to yourself. You may feel safe, but it could be one of the most dangerous times to be on the road.

Driving at night is something we all do, and the MaineDOT wants to make sure you drive safely. Even though you may feel you have the road to yourself, reduced visibility



makes nighttime one of the most dangerous times to drive.

10% of fatalities take place between midnight and 3 AM, even though only 1% of the state's daily traveling takes place during that time.

- More than 80% of collisions with deer and almost 90% of collisions with moose take place between the hours of dusk and dawn. Night is when these animals are the most active and the hardest to see.
  - All Fatal crashes with Moose or Deer during the past 3 years occurred in non-daylight hours.
  - At speeds over 45 miles per hour, your headlights do not illuminate far enough to allow the reaction time and braking distance needed.
  - Drive defensively, watching for mistakes of others, sleepy or intoxicated drivers, and animals.
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Nighttime driving requires more caution than daytime driving - especially this time of year. As temperatures warm up during the day, they melt roadside snow and ice. At night, the snowmelt regularly turns into icy spots that are almost impossible to see – and can lead to dangerous run off road or head-on collisions. The MaineDOT says that to avoid icy surprises after dark, you should:

- Listen regularly to weather and road reports. Check the temperature before you leave the house at night and in the morning.
  - Watch well ahead and slow down if you see wet or glossy pavement.
  - Be especially careful as you round curves, where handling is critical and your view may be obstructed.
  - Brake with extreme caution and avoid any sudden changes in steering when pavement surfaces are slippery.
  - Reduce speed to allow sufficient time to see and react to problems on the road.
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It's important to watch out for other cars and for pedestrians when you're driving. But the MaineDOT also reminds you to make it easy for others to see you.

- If you're a pedestrian, wear reflective clothing.
- If you're driving, make sure your headlights are on according to Maine law - one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

During dawn and dusk, you may be able to see fine, but others can't see you.

- Be sure your headlights are on.



- Keep your headlights and taillights clean. Salt, sand and dirt from wet roads can quickly cover them and make them ineffective.
- (8,000 crashes occurred during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk over the last three years – More than one-quarter of those crashes resulted in injury. Reduced light reduces your ability to see and be seen.)

When it's dark, use your high beams when there's no nearby traffic, but remember to dim them for vehicles ahead.

***Be a Road Model*** - **SLOW DOWN** and drive carefully at night and always wear your seat belt.