



Maine DOT Flash Facts

Topic: Speeding

Speed is a major contributor to Maine crash fatalities, and as a result, a leading ongoing enforcement focus for police agencies throughout the state.

Speed is the leading aggressive driving problem in the state. Overall, aggressive driving is a factor in a growing percentage of Maine crashes.

Flash Facts:

Excessive speed is Maine's number one highway killer. 17% of Maine crashes and nearly 40% of the fatalities are caused by speeding. According to the MaineDOT:

- Teenage drivers are 2 and a 1/2 times more likely to be in a speed related crash. Excessive speed coupled with a younger driver's inexperience is a dangerous combination.
- Even though traffic volumes are low between 9pm and 3am, that is when nearly 40% of all speed-related fatal crashes occur.
- Each year unsafe speed kills about 75 people in Maine. Don't think of speeding as something that may only cost you a ticket. It may also cost you your life - or the life of someone you love.
- Illegal or unsafe speed often leads to Run Off Road and Head On crashes – Maine's two leading fatal crash types.

Be a Road Model: Drive at a safe speed to prevent deadly crashes, and always wear our seat belt.

Flash Facts: According to the Maine DOT, excessive speed causes the following dangerous situations:

- It takes a nearly double the distance to stop the vehicle at **60** miles per hour (nearly 600 feet) than at **40** miles per hour (about 300 feet).
- Speeding drivers have shorter reaction times making crashes more likely.

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



- Speeding creates a tunnel vision view of the road, reducing your peripheral vision. In other words, spotting problems on the road will much more difficult for the driver.

Consider the serious effects that higher speeds have on compromising your ability to control and maneuver your vehicle.

Think of all the devastating fatal crash headlines where unsafe speed was the leading causal factor. Is increased speed worth the risk to you, your passengers, or others on the road?

Flash Facts:

With unsafe speed killing about 75 people per year in Maine, it's important to remember the following ways to avoid driving at excessive speeds in your vehicle:

- If you leave 15 minutes late, expect to arrive 15 minutes late. Do not try to make up the time by speeding while you drive.
- Adapt your speed to the variety of potential hazardous driving conditions, including:
 - ✓ Reduced visibility at night
 - ✓ Weather conditions such as rain or fog
 - ✓ Work zones
 - ✓ Be sure to follow highway speed warning signs.
- Reduce speed to maintain traction in rainy weather.
- Drive defensively and remain aware of other drivers on the road – prevent a crash that may be related to their unsafe actions, such as unsafe speed.
- Night-time is the predominant time when crashes with animals occur, so slow down and be on the look-out.

Remember that driving is a major responsibility. Your actions could cost you your life or someone else's.

Be a Road Model: drive at a safe speed and always wear your seat belt.