



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Traffic Control Devices

Nearly 1/3 of all Maine crashes occur at intersections and 10,000 of these crashes occurred at signalized intersections during the past three years.

Driving through intersections requires full driver attention and caution. Yet in the last three years:

- Over 1,500 Maine drivers were reported as disregarding a traffic control device.
- About 5,000 drivers were reported as being distracted or inattentive.

There are several things drivers should not assume when they are at intersections with traffic signals. The MaineDOT suggests that you do not assume that:

- The light will stay green until you reach it.
- The driver ahead will proceed without stopping.
- Vehicles heading towards a red light will stop.
- That other vehicles will do what the traffic signal indicates.

So, at intersections, don't make assumptions about traffic or signal changes—always be ready for changing conditions, always be prepared to stop, and always leave yourself an out.

Intersections can be hectic, and definitely not the location to make hasty assumptions about what other vehicles and pedestrians will do.

The number of crashes where drivers are disregarding traffic control devices is rising. Here are some tips from the MaineDOT on how to avoid an intersection crash:

- Keep focused on driving. Scan ahead, watching for signals, signs, traffic, and any pedestrian and bicycle activity.
- Maintain proper lane position.
- Check all lanes for possible traffic conflicts. Be aware that another driver waving you through for a left turn may mean well, but not be aware of other oncoming traffic.

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



- Watch for signs and signals...and Obey them!
 - Yield the right of way to traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
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Along with paying attention, the MaineDOT offers these tips to help you be a safe driver at intersections and avoid crashes:

- Slow down and be ready to stop.
- When making a left turn, keep your vehicle's wheels straight until you proceed into the turn. Otherwise, getting hit from the rear could send you into the opposing lane and oncoming traffic. Check mirrors to make sure traffic behind can stop.
- Don't delay – when it's your turn to legally AND safely proceed through an intersection, do so at a safe speed without delaying those behind you.
- Remember that people going straight through an intersection have the right-of-way before any vehicles turning left.
- Right-on-Red does not apply at ALL intersections. Watch for signs that prohibit it. If Right-on-Red is allowed, first come to a **full** stop, then **yield** to all traffic and pedestrians before turning right.

Be a Road Model: be ready for traffic and signal changes at intersections and always wear your seat belt.