



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Traffic Signal Safety

At the over 600 signalized intersections in Maine, there were nearly 9,000 crashes in the last three years. Six people died and about 4,000 were injured. Most of these crashes could have been prevented.

It is never safe to assume anything, particularly at road intersections. A little common sense and patience can prevent intersection crashes. These tips from the Maine DOT can also help:

- Do not assume that the light will stay green long enough for you to reach it.
- Even if you have the green light, remember that other drivers may not stop at their red light.
- Remember that 'Right on Red' is restricted in some areas, and when it is allowed, you must first come to a complete stop to check for traffic and pedestrians before turning.

There have been nearly 200 pedestrian and bicycle crashes at signalized intersections over the last three years. These road users are very vulnerable to crash injury.

Intersections can sometimes be confusing during high traffic times of the day. This confusion can lead to crashes, and in some instances, death. The MaineDOT offers this advice on intersection safety:

- Even when you have a green light, make sure that it is safe to go through the intersection by looking both ways.
- Be prepared to stop at yellow lights.
- When stopping at an intersection, stop at the painted stop bar, before crosswalks, or if neither are present, at the intersection itself without entering the crossing traffic lane.
- Remember that some intersections do not allow you to turn right on red. If right-turn-on-red is allowed, come to a full stop first. Then, yield to all traffic and pedestrians before turning right. (Be especially careful of pedestrians to your right.)

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



In the past three years, driver inattention contributed to half of all crashes at signalized intersections in Maine.

Nearly 9,000 car crashes have occurred at signalized intersections over the last three years. Driver inattention was the leading cause. Other errors that frequently lead to intersection crashes were Disregard of Traffic Control Device; Failure to Yield the Right of Way and Following Too Close.

Paying attention and avoiding aggressive driving tendencies are two important things you can do to prevent an intersection crash. Here are a few more reminders from MaineDOT:

- Watch for traffic signals and signs, designated turn lanes, traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Maintain proper lane position.
- Use turn signals to show where you are going.
- Slow down at intersections and be ready to stop.
- Don't delay traffic. When it's your turn to proceed, do so at a safe speed without delaying those behind you.
- Plan ahead – know your travel route.

Be a Road Model: pay attention, make safe decisions at intersections and always wear your seatbelt.