



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Autumn Adjustments-Rain, Fog, Sunlight and Leaves

From 2003-2005 over 10,000 crashes occurred in rain or fog, resulting in 57 deaths and about 4,500 injuries. The leading causes of these crashes were driver inattention and speeding.

Flash Facts: Autumn may seem like an odd time of year for new driving problems but rain and fog are huge factors in autumn driving conditions. Here are some tips from the Maine DOT for driving in rain and fog:

- Slow down—traction is reduced any time the pavement is wet
- Leave extra space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead
- Drive within sight limitations
- Use low beam headlights in fog

Over the past three years nearly 4,000 car crashes and 17 fatalities occurred during rain or fog conditions in September, October, and November. Some of these collisions could have been prevented if the vehicle had been properly maintained.

Flash Facts: Part of staying safe on the road is properly maintaining your vehicle. The MaineDOT suggests these pointers for keeping your vehicle safe this fall:

- Make sure all lights are working on your vehicle
- Periodically change your windshield wipers to ensure that they are working properly
- Keep all glass surfaces clean in your vehicle—including the inside of your windshield

Good tires are **critical**. Make sure tires are properly inflated and have adequate tread.

Autumn in Maine offers some spectacular foliage. However, these beautiful leaves can pose a threat to road safety.



Flash Facts: Since it is almost fall, more and more leaves will be finding their way onto the roadway. Leaf-covered areas reduce traction—especially when wet. The MaineDOT reminds you of these safety precautions for dealing with leaf-covered roadways and other autumn hazards:

- Slow down—handling curves, stopping and turning can be more hazardous
- Maintain a safe following distance
- Keep in mind that as times of sunrise and sunset change and the sun's position shifts, new glare problems may arise during the fall. Adjust your visors and make sure you can see what's ahead
- Drive clear of leaf piles - children could be playing in them

Be a Road Model: be careful driving during the fall season and make sure you and all of your passengers wear seatbelts.