



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Treatment of Snowy/Icy Roads and Winter Driving

Over 20,000 crashes occurred on snow or ice covered road surfaces in Maine from 2002 through 2004. These crashes resulted in 66 deaths and over 7,000 injuries.

Driving during and after a winter storm is very dangerous, no matter how the roads are treated or plowed. The MaineDOT offers the following driving tips to keep you safe this winter:

- Reduce your speed and increase the distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. Do not drive faster than the conditions allow.
- Observe reduced speed limits.
- Know that bridge decks and shady areas often freeze sooner than the adjacent pavement. Pay special attention in these areas.
- Reduce your speed when driving downhill. Shift into a lower gear or use your brakes gently to prevent a skid.
- Reduce your speed well BEFORE entering a curve or downgrade, and travel at a safe speed that ensures good traction once into the curve.
- Turn off the cruise control so you can manually adjust power as you need it.

Be a Road Model: be extra cautious driving in the winter and always wear your seat belt.

Anti-icing techniques are used on Maine roads to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the road surface. This is done to keep Maine driver's safe, but do you know how to safely drive when snow plows and winter maintenance vehicles are on the road?

Winter storm driving is always dangerous and drivers should be particularly careful around winter maintenance vehicles such as snow plows. The MaineDOT offers some safe winter driving tips:

- Leave plenty of room for maintenance vehicles. They may need to stop or change lane position. Oncoming plows will be clearing the centerline, so you will need to move your vehicle a safe distance to the right.

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



- Be extra careful around a snow plow as your visibility may be reduced due to blowing snow.
- Resist the urge to pass a plow. Remember that the driving conditions ahead of a plow are often worse than behind it.

Be a Road Model: be patient and safe around winter maintenance vehicles and always wear your seat belt.

Did you know that the leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation crashes? Do you know how to drive safely in the winter?

Anti-icing techniques used by winter maintenance crews in Maine allow for better removal of snow and ice to provide a bare pavement more quickly after a storm. This anti-icing approach can lead to slush on the roads rather than sanded ice or hard packed snow. The MaineDOT reminds you of the following winter safe driving tips:

- Do not drive in white-out conditions. Pull off the road to a safe location, other than the shoulder, until conditions improve.
- Turn on your headlights so you can see and be seen, and remember that it's the law.
- Four wheel drive provides no additional safety for braking or turning.
- Excessive speed and worn tires on a slushy surface can lead to hydroplaning.
- Use your brakes carefully, applying them early and gently.

Be a Road Model: take your time and enjoy Maine's winter beauty and always wear your seat belt.