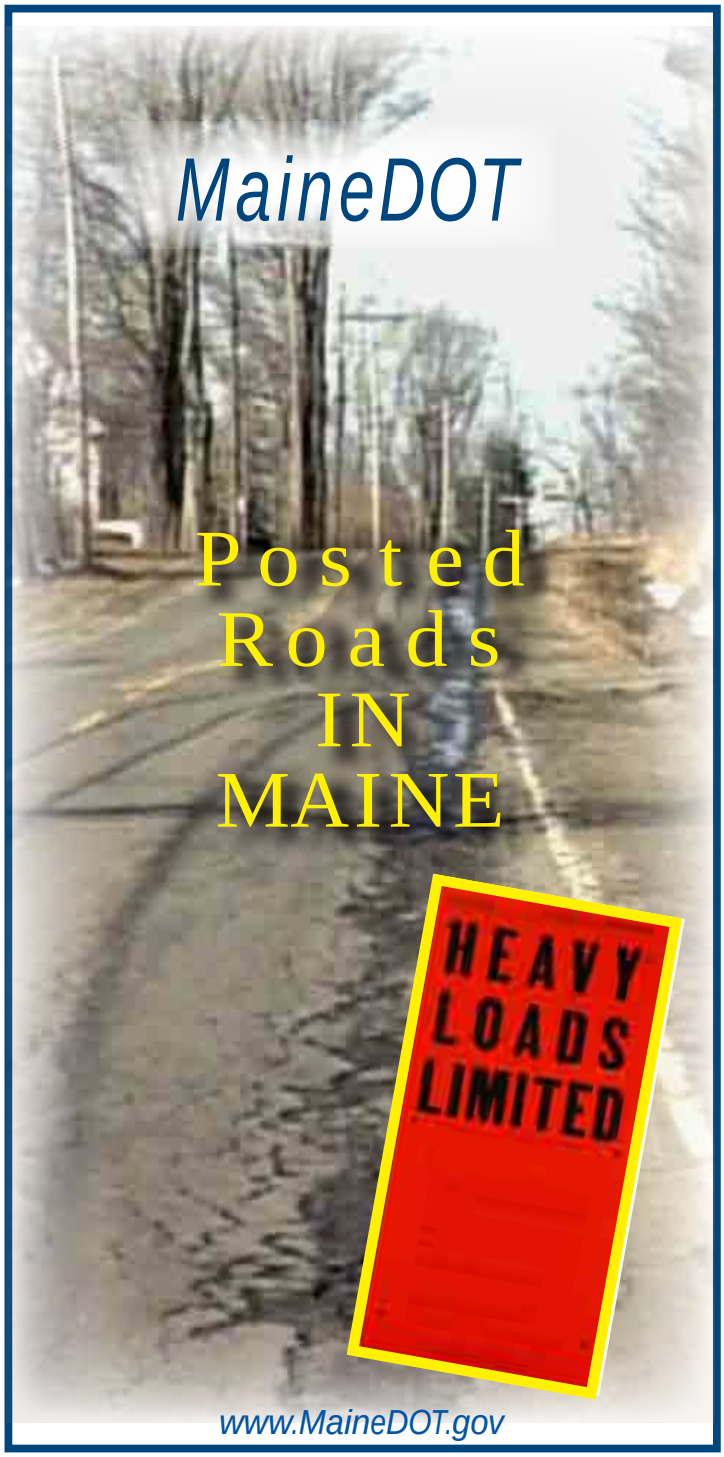
MaineDOT
Posted
Roads
IN
MAINE
HEAVY
LOADS
LIMITED
www.MaineDOT.gov

State law permits posting roads

In order to protect the state's road infrastructure, the Maine Legislature has authorized MaineDOT to post roads. Title 29-A, Chapter 21, Subchapter 3 states that "the Department of Transportation may restrict the weight or passage of any vehicle over any way when, in its judgment, such passage would be unsafe or likely to cause excessive damage to the way or bridge." Municipalities and counties are also authorized to enact rules on roads under their jurisdiction.

Posted roads vs. non-posted roads

Not all roads are the same. If money were not an issue, all roads would be built to carry the heaviest legal loads. In Maine, many roads have been built to these modern standards. However, there also are many miles of road that have never been built to tolerate heavy trucks and day-to-day demands of modern traffic. Since dollars are limited, MaineDOT prioritizes construction on roads and bridges that have the most traffic and offer the most economic benefit to the state. Unfortunately, it may be many years before many smaller, less-traveled roads are rebuilt. In the meantime, we must post roads in order to protect and extend the life of the roads.

Many roads have been posted for years and these roads are well-known to those who use them. However, as roads age and deteriorate, posting is one maintenance strategy that is used to protect them and extend their life.

Why we post

Asphalt roads are at their weakest when the ground begins to thaw and the materials underneath a road's surface are saturated with moisture. Travelling over roads having a saturated base underneath can cause cracking, potholes, and rutting. Heavy trucks can even completely break through asphalt and severely damage a road.

Travel over posted roads

In some instances, you may travel over posted roads. When a posted road is "solidly frozen," you may drive over the road. A road is considered "solidly frozen" only when the air temperature is 32°F or below and no water is showing in the cracks of the road. Both conditions must be met. In the spring, these conditions occur frequently at night.

For answers to frequently asked questions, complete rules of operation, and information about possible exemptions, please visit: *www.MaineDOT.gov* or call a MaineDOT Region Office.

Learn more about which roads are posted

Visit Maine's *www.511maine.com* Web site, select a region of the state and then click on the commercial vehicle tab for an up-to-date map of all state roads that are posted. The map can also alert you to alternate routes that are not posted. You can also find out more by contacting your MaineDOT Region Office (see contact info on back panel).

"Posted Roads" in Maine

During the winter and spring, some of Maine's roads weaken and they need to be protected. As temperatures warm and the ground thaws, soil under the pavement becomes saturated with water, making the pavement unstable. As a result, many roads cannot support heavy loads.

To protect roads from serious damage, some roads are posted in order to limit the amount of weight travelling over them. State roads are posted by MaineDOT, and other roads are posted by municipalities, or counties.

This means that a road that can carry a 15-ton load in the summer or winter may only be able to carry a 5-ton load as it thaws. A posted state road's maximum weight limit is 23,000 pounds. The posting is temporary, and is designed to protect a road while it is vulnerable. Repairing or rebuilding a road is expensive, at times costing over $1 million per mile.

For more information on posted state roads, please contact our MaineDOT Region Offices at:

Region 1 - Scarborough
Region1.MaineDOT@maine.gov 207-885-7000
Region 2 - Rockland
Region2.MaineDOT@maine.gov 207-624-8200
Region 3 - Dixfield
Region3.MaineDOT@maine.gov 207-562-4228
Region 4 - Bangor
Region4.MaineDOT@maine.gov 207-941-4500
Region 5 - Presque Isle
Region5.MaineDOT@maine.gov 207-764-2060

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