



## MaineDOT Flash Facts

### Topic: Vehicle-Deer Collisions

Maine is known for its beautiful wildlife. But hitting a large animal with your vehicle can be devastating—even deadly. More than 3,000 deer-vehicle crashes are reported in Maine every year. Vehicle-deer related facts are as follows:

- An average of 10 vehicle-deer crashes are reported every day.
- It doesn't matter where you live in Maine, vehicle-deer crashes happen even in the most populated areas.
- A deer's jumping ability can easily cause it to strike your windshield.
- Deer-vehicle crashes are most common from October to December.

(Remember to also be watching for Moose. They are far larger than deer – weighing up to 1,500 pounds and standing much taller than deer and therefore very dangerous to motorists).

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More than 9,000 deer-vehicle crashes occurred and resulted in two fatalities and 350 injuries over the past three years.

**Flash Facts:** Since vehicle-deer related car crashes happen in every area in Maine, be watching for deer activity every time you drive. Tips on how to better your chances of avoiding a vehicle-deer crash are as follows:

- Use your high beams when there are no other vehicles ahead of you or vehicles coming toward you. This will better illuminate the road and enable you to see deer and any reflection from the deer's eyes, giving you a chance of seeing them sooner.
- Travel at a safe speed and be alert so that you can stop quickly.
- Reduce your speed in rain and fog. Poor weather conditions reduce your ability to see a deer on or near the road.
- Constantly scan the roadside.

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More than 80% of deer-vehicle crashes happen between dawn and dusk, and 70% occur when it's dark.

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



During the last three years, every county in Maine has had over 200 deer-vehicle crashes. Cumberland County had more than 1,400 crashes, Penobscot County had over 1,200, and Kennebec County had more than 1,000 crashes during those three years. There's no doubt that deer-vehicle collisions are a safety problem. The MaineDOT offers this advice:

- Be sure to scan both the roadway and off-road areas 20-30 seconds ahead.
- Slow down and allow enough time to safely brake.
- If you see one deer cross the road, watch for others to follow.
- Always buckle up.

***Be a Road Model:*** know the facts about vehicle-deer car crashes and always wear your safety belt.