



Maine Bureau of
Highway Safety

THE MAINE LIAISON



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Traffic safety is public safety

As we usher in the fall season with cooler temperatures and shorter days, we pause to look at the fatal crash data from the national "100 Deadliest Days" awareness campaign, specific to Maine.

Our FARS team reported 51 fatalities during that 100-day period. In 2025, that number was 57; in 2024, it was 62; in 2023, it was 51; and in 2022, it was 59.

The Bureau of Highway Safety embraces the belief that traffic safety is public safety. Traffic enforcement from our law enforcement partners is one of the most effective ways to address the persistently high number of fatal crashes on Maine roadways. Every fatal crash makes headlines, but it is quickly replaced by the next fatal crash in another Maine city or town. What does not fade is the lasting grief experienced by families following a tragedy that, in many cases, may have been preventable.

The term "traffic violence" was used by a keynote speaker at this year's GHSA Traffic Safety Conference. It conveys a stronger message about preventable deaths and serious injuries on our public roadways. Combating traffic violence in all its forms may provide another way to reinforce your agency's mission of traffic enforcement.

In this line of work, most of us have heard the unimaginable stories of loved ones lost in traffic crashes—events that change families' lives forever. Traffic enforcement alone will not stop these preventable tragedies. Strong partnerships across the traffic safety community, however, can make a difference in reducing traffic violence in Maine. As we move into the fall season, let us continue to work together to make Maine's roads safer for everyone.

Your LEL Contacts:

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Q3 2026 Traffic Fatalities

Our FARS analysts will remind us that the 2026 fatal crash data is preliminary; however, it is important to share these statistics because one traffic fatality is too many. We hope this publication provides valuable support for your traffic safety missions. As always, we are looking to build our relationships with our law enforcement partners and welcome any suggestions on how we can help keep our roadway safe! This graphic is updated and distributed monthly on the [Maine Chiefs of Police Facebook page](#).



The Maine OUI Guide (6th ed.)
August 2026

Original Version - July 2020
 Edited, Annotated, and Researched by:
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 Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor
 Maine Bureau of Highway Safety
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 2nd - 6th Edition Edits and Additions by:
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 Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors
 Maine Bureau of Highway Safety



RIGHT NOW 50 MILLION
 VEHICLES ON THE ROAD HAVE OPEN SAFETY RECALLS
 Is yours one of them?

CHECK TO PROTECT
 CheckToProtect.org for vehicle recalls

DRIVE SAFE

[Traffic Camera Link](#)

The 6th edition of the Maine OUI Guide is now available. The "Guide" discusses commonly encountered situations in typical impaired driving scenarios and applies relevant case law, statutory law, law enforcement training material, and empirical data to assist practitioners. To access a digital copy, click on the photo on the left. Also available are the SFST pocket guides. These can be obtained from MCJA or your LEL's.

BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

Coordinators Corner

Programmatic Updates

BHS media products have a new look. We've launched four PSAs with a focus on Distracted Driving, Unattended Passengers, Commercial Motor Vehicles, and Young Drivers. They can be viewed on our [YouTube Channel](#).

In addition, 4 new handouts were created and are up ready for download on [our website](#).

Reach out to Nicholas.Brown@maine.gov for any media questions.

Forensic Phlebotomy

Our most current on call list of trained FP professionals can be found [HERE](#).

For more information about the Forensic Phlebotomy program, please contact Kasey.Theriault@Maine.gov.



Traffic Safety Educator

Alliance Highway Safety is our partner in education. Their efforts focus on helping young drivers build safe habits before they become routine. By combining hands-on learning, real-world demonstrations, and community engagement, the program shows teens what can happen when they take risks behind the wheel and how simple choices can prevent tragedy. One of the most popular tools is the [seat belt convincer](#), a device that safely simulates the force of a low-speed crash.

If you would like to book these services for your event, please e-mail info@alliancehighwaysafety.com.



Used Speed Measuring Equipment

- STALKER II Hand-Held Radar (Serial #: AS014277)
- DECATUR Genesis Hand-Held Radar (Serial #: GHD-14414)
- LASER TECHNOLOGY TRU-SPEED 5 Lidar (Serial #: TJ001964)
- LASER TECHNOLOGY TRU-SPEED 5 Lidar (Serial #: TJ001956)
- KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC. Raptor RP-1 Radar Unit (needs to be mounted) (Serial #: RP22362)

Please reach out to Pat or Jim if you can use any of these speed measuring devices.

BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

Coordinators Corner

We're excited to officially introduce our two newest members of the highway safety team! Mike Lussier and Charles "Chip" McInnis have made several appearances in BHS virtual workshops and onsite monitoring visits over the past several months. All of us are here to support your ongoing work in traffic safety.

Michael Lussier joined the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety in July as a Highway Safety Coordinator. Originally from Virginia, he moved in December of 2025 to Augusta, Maine with his wife. His background is in public safety as he was a Deputy Sheriff with the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office in Virginia for 11 years. While with the Sheriff's office he served as a sergeant for the Operations Division and oversaw the child passenger program and served as the liaison for multiple projects and programs within the city and surrounding jurisdictions. Mike can be reached at Michael.P.Lussier@maine.gov.

Charles "Chip" McInnis is a Highway Safety Coordinator with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. He comes to this role with over 25 years of experience in law enforcement. Today, he specializes in grant management and has proctored numerous grant awards worth millions of dollars. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration, as well as graduate certificates in Nonprofit Management, Employment law, and Disability Studies. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time at his lake-house, boating, and fishing. You can connect with him at Charles.McInnis@maine.gov.

YOUR BHS TEAM!

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Eyes Up, Phones Down: Leadership in the Fight Against Distracted Driving

By Chief Eddie Benjamin - Holden Police Department

Every day, drivers look away from the road to read a text, enter an address, change a song, or use social media. Seconds can make all the difference in a life-changing crash. Distracted driving remains one of the most preventable dangers on our roads, and law enforcement leaders play an important role in addressing it. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines distracted driving as any activity that diverts attention from driving. Distractions can be visual, manual, or cognitive. Handheld cellphone use is especially dangerous because it can involve all three at once: a driver looks away from the road, takes a hand off the wheel, and shifts attention away from driving.

In 2024, distracted-driving crashes claimed 3,208 lives nationwide and left 315,167 people injured. These numbers represent families, friends, and communities forever changed by preventable decisions. Education and legislation matter; however, drivers must also believe they have a real chance of being stopped and forced to face the consequences of breaking the law. High-visibility traffic enforcement combines a visible police presence with public education and media outreach. This approach strengthens deterrence and encourages voluntary compliance before a crash occurs.

NHTSA research shows this approach can change driving behavior. Demonstration projects in California and Delaware paired increased enforcement with paid and earned media, reducing observed handheld cellphone use by about one-third. High-visibility strategies have also changed behavior related to impaired driving and seat belt use (again, saving lives).

Holden, Maine, shows us why this work matters. Our town has about 3,300 residents, but U.S. Route 1A runs right through our community and carries heavy traffic daily (even more during the summer tourism season). For a small municipal police department, that's a lot of traffic-safety responsibility.

At the Holden Police Department, we believe traffic safety is public safety. With funding and support from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, we have increased high-visibility enforcement on the Main Road (Route 1A) in recent years, including dedicated distracted-driving details and public education. This partnership has helped us increase enforcement, reach more drivers, and reduce dangerous behavior before it leads to tragedy. Our latest five-year statistics show a nearly 50% decrease in crashes caused by distracted drivers.

I strongly encourage other departments to explore partnership opportunities with MEBHS. Funding provides the resources, but leadership determines whether those resources make a difference. Administrators cannot ask officers to work weekends, overnights, and holidays while remaining absent from those efforts. As leaders, we must stand beside our officers, support this mission together, and lead by example. Set a high standard and live up to it.

BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

On the Front Line



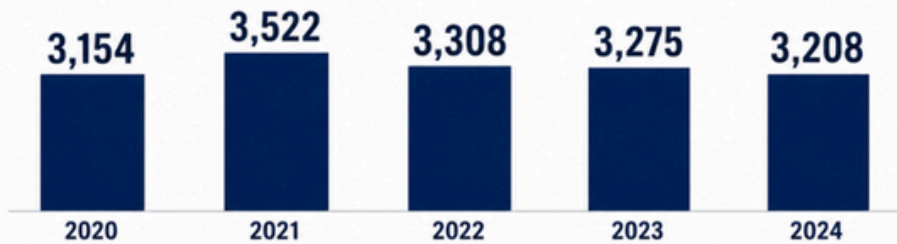
DISTRACTED DRIVING KILLS

THE HUMAN COST BY THE NUMBERS



16,467
PEOPLE KILLED
in crashes involving
distracted drivers
from 2020–2024

PEOPLE KILLED IN DISTRACTED-DRIVING CRASHES



IN 2024 ALONE



3,208
PEOPLE KILLED



315,167
PEOPLE INJURED



Distracted-driving crashes and fatalities can be difficult to identify and document, meaning the actual impact may be greater.



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Data: Fatalities in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers (2020–2024)
nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving



Chief Eddie Benjamin - Holden Police Department



Traffic Safety Initiatives: Five Leadership Priorities for Combating Cannabis-Impaired Driving

By Scot Mattox, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Maine

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Impaired driving remains one of the most persistent and consequential public safety challenges facing police leaders in the United States. Preliminary U.S. data indicate that more than 39,000 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2024, with alcohol continuing to play a significant role in many of those fatalities.[1]

At the same time, enforcement and toxicology data increasingly show that drugs—particularly cannabis—are now a common factor in impaired driving. As cannabis legalization has expanded, so too has the prevalence of the substance in traffic safety cases, both alone and in combination with alcohol.[2]

For police executives, cannabis impaired driving presents a fundamentally different challenge than alcohol-impaired driving. The science is more complex, impairment does not align neatly with numeric thresholds, and public perception of risk often lags behind operational reality. Officers are encountering drivers who show clear functional impairment yet lack the traditional indicators long associated with alcohol—no odor, no admission of drinking, and no easily interpreted chemical benchmark. These encounters are no longer unusual; they are becoming part of daily patrol work.

Adapting to meet this shift requires more than incremental training updates. It demands leadership's attention to policy, expectations, and organizational readiness. Cannabis impairment cannot be addressed by simply extending alcohol-based impaired driving enforcement models or relying exclusively on specialized personnel. Instead, agencies must emphasize observational evidence, reinforce foundational investigative skills, and ensure that patrol officers are equipped to recognize and document impairment regardless of the substance causing it.[3]

Use this [link](#) to access the remainder of the article.



DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCATES



Dirigo Safety's newsletter titled "What's New at Dirigo Safety" can be found [here!](#)

OUI Fundamentals

October 28, 2026 0800-1600
Presque Isle Police Department
Presque Isle, ME

Participants will sharpen their OUI investigation skills from the traffic stop to report writing and courtroom testimony.

Price: Free, Sponsored by BHS!

OUI After the Arrest

October 29, 2026 0800-1600
Presque Isle Police Department
Presque Isle, ME

Navigate both direct and cross-examination with confidence through interactive discussions and mock testimony exercises.

Price: Free, Sponsored by BHS!

Green Lab: Cannabis Impairment Detection Training

October 15, 0800-1700
York Police Department
York, ME

Price: FREE for Maine LEO's - Sponsored by OCP.
Lunch will be provided, limited seats available!

Welcome to Dirigo Safety, LLC's blog and news page!

[Here](#), you'll find the latest updates and information relevant to law enforcement in Maine and New England. We cover various topics, including mental health, trends, and best practices in the field.



Updates From

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Unit



DRE Refresher training was held in September, with instructors who attended the IACP's Impaired Driving & Traffic Safety conference presenting, as well as Maine's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors and chemists from DHHS Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory. Discussion included lab capabilities, emerging courtroom trends, the increasing prevalence of kratom in Maine, and other topics.

Our next DRE class has been selected and approved by Commissioner Sauschuck; they'll begin the classroom portion of their training in December, followed by field certification training in both Maine and Florida in January.

For more information about Maine DRE's program, contact Don Finnegan Edwin.D.Finnegan@maine.gov.

Traffic Safety Marketing

Powered by NHTSA



NHTSA Campaigns Happening Now & Upcoming

Traffic Safety Marketing powered by NHTSA is a free resource for social media content that can be plug and play for current and upcoming NHTSA campaigns. These are just a few examples of current content that are ready for you. simply click on any image to redirect you to the TSM webpage.



Pedestrian Safety Month

Pedestrian Safety

At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian. October is Pedestrian Safety Month, a good opportunity to increase pedestrian safety messaging across all platforms.

Oct 1, 2026 - Oct 31, 2026



Teen Driver Safety Week

Teen Driver Safety

A teen's inexperience behind the wheel makes them more susceptible to crashes. Teen Driver Safety Week is a good opportunity to increase teen driver safety messaging.

Oct 18, 2026 - Oct 24, 2026



National School Bus Safety Week

School Bus Safety

Millions of children across the nation ride on a school bus every day. National School Bus Safety Week is a good opportunity to increase safety messaging across all platforms.

Oct 19, 2026 - Oct 23, 2026

CHEMIST CORNER

MAINE CDC-DHHS
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL
TESTING LABORATORY-
FORENSIC CHEMISTRY
SECTION: TOXICOLOGY

Evidentiary Breath Alcohol Program

General Information:

Fundamental components of a forensically reliable and valid breath test are the following:

- Given by a certified BTD operator
- On an approved by DHHS breath testing device
- Properly executed 15-minute observation period
- Absence of the "Invalid Sample" or "Interferent Detect" test exceptions
- Two results greater than two minutes apart agreeing within ± 0.02 g/210L
- Applying averaging of two results or use of the lower of the two results
- Third digit truncation, no rounding rules applied. Example: 0.081 and 0.089 both produce a final result of 0.08 g/210L

Reminder: HETL is reaching out to each Intox site to coordinate connecting to new 9000 instruments.

Connection is required for HETL to obtain instrument data and also monitor gas pressure.

CHEMIST CORNER

MAINE CDC-DHHS
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL
TESTING LABORATORY-
FORENSIC CHEMISTRY
SECTION: TOXICOLOGY

Urine & Blood Testing Programs

New Evidence Submission & Requests for Analysis Forms now available at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/services/maine-public-health-laboratory/forensic-chemistry/toxicology-unit>

 State of Maine Department of Health & Human Services Health & Environmental Testing Laboratory Forensic Chemistry Section 47 Independence Drive Augusta ME 04333 (207) 287-1712		FCS Case Number Label (Lab Use Only)	
Toxicology Evidence Submission Form			
Investigating Agency Agency Name (if applicable, include incorporation) _____ Agency Case # _____ Investigating Officer _____ Phone # _____ Email _____			
Incident Details Subject Name (Last, First) _____ Date of Birth _____ Offense _____ Type of Sample Obtained for Testing: ☐ Blood ☐ Urine			
LAB USE ONLY			
EVIDENCE RECEIVED ☐ In Person - Submitted by (Print Name): _____ ☐ USPS ☐ FedEx ☐ UPS ☐ Dropbox Tracking #: _____ (if applicable)			
CONDITION OF EVIDENCE	EVIDENCE DESCRIPTION	LOT # (if applicable)	LOT EXPIRATION DATE (if applicable)
EWI	EWG	US	
EWI = sealed with initials EWG = sealed without initials US = unsealed			
Signature of FCS Representative _____		Date _____	Time _____
• A copy of the completed Evidence Submission Form will be provided to the submitting investigating officer if requested.			
Toxicology Evidence Submission Form: Doc # 1-242 Effective Date: 08/08/2026		Approved by: Forensic Technical Director Revision Date: 06/06/2020	
Page 1 of 1			

 State of Maine Department of Health & Human Services Health & Environmental Testing Laboratory Forensic Chemistry Section 47 Independence Drive Augusta ME 04333 (207) 287-1712		FCS Case Number Label (Lab Use Only)	
Toxicology Laboratory Analysis Request & Contract for Examination			
Form to be filled out by investigating officer, except for specimen collector name & signature. Analysis Requested: ☐ Blood Alcohol ☐ Blood Drug ☐ Urine Drug ☐ Fetus/Neonatal Crash ☐ YES ☐ NO Subject's Name (Last, First): _____ *Block if FCS			
Subject DOB: _____ Incident Date: _____ Incident Time (2400): _____ Incident City: _____ Incident County: County			
Investigating Officer & Agency: _____ Investigating Officer Email Address: _____ Sample Collection Date: _____ Sample Collection Time (2400): _____ Sample Collection City: _____ Sample Collection County: County			
BLOOD SAMPLES ONLY			
Specimen Collector Name (Last, First): _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____			
LET MY SIGNATURE STATE THAT I DREW BLOOD FROM THE ABOVE NAMED SUBJECT ON DVD DATE AND THAT I AM QUALIFIED TO DRAW A SPECIMEN OF BLOOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING BLOOD-ALCOHOL LEVEL, OR DRUG CONCENTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEA 26-A § 2024 AND THAT THE MATERIAL USED IN DRAWING THE SAMPLE WAS OF A QUALITY APPROPRIATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCLUDING RELIABLE TEST RESULTS (MEA 26-A § 2025).			
DRE Information (evaluation performed/attempted) Name of DRE (Last, First): _____ DRE Agency: _____ Check suspected drug category suggested by DRE evaluation: ☐ CNS Depressants ☐ CNS Stimulants ☐ Hallucinogens ☐ Dissociative Anesthetics ☐ Narcotics ☐ Inhalants ☐ Cannabinoids ☐ Other drugs suspected: _____			
Mailing Address #1 (Mailed Copy of Report): Name: _____ Agency: _____ Address: _____		Mailing Address #2 (Retained Copy of Report) if applicable: Name: _____ Agency: _____ Address: _____	
SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR TESTING			
Investigating Officer Signature: _____ (By signing above, the customer is agreeing to the contract for examination and below terms.)		Date: _____	
• Laboratory generated results may be included in DEA NPLIS reports, grant reports, or other similar data sharing agreements. Agencies may reserve the right to omit data from these reports by notifying the laboratory. Personal/identifying information will not be shared. • The laboratory will determine the most appropriate method of testing for the evidence submitted. • HETL has a standard CUA drug testing panel that may not contain all impinging substances/drugs of abuse. • The laboratory reserves the right to subcontract to another laboratory, if necessary. • Urine samples with no DRE and be billed to submitting agency. • The customer agrees to a simplified report containing the signature of the analyzing chemist. The authorizer of the report is documented in the case record and available upon request.			
Toxicology Laboratory Analysis Request Form & Contract: Doc # 1-238 Effective Date: 12/05/2023		Approved by: Forensic Technical Director Revision Date: 08/08/2026	
Page 1 of 1			

What is different?: Decreased duplicate information between forms & one Analysis Request form for blood and urine samples (previously 2 forms).

Highway Safety Partnership



S/W RIDE TEAM UPDATE

john.roma@dirigosafety.com



DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCATES

RIDE TEAMS ON THE ROAD FOR A SAFER MAINE

In an effort to reduce impaired driving and impaired driving related crashes throughout the state, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association and the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety have partnered with Dirigo Safety, LLC to establish Regional Impaired Driving Enforcement (RIDE) Teams to conduct high visibility enforcement details.

Drive Sober.
Arrive Safe.



WHEN & WHERE

Between May 22 and September 5,
18 details were conducted in 6 districts
across Maine.



WHO PARTICIPATED

Officers from 37 law enforcement
agencies participated in these details.



16

SATURATION
PATROLS



2

SOBRIETY
CHECKPOINTS



62

IMPAIRED DRIVING
ARRESTS



115

OUI WARNINGS



1,217

TRAFFIC STOPS

58

OUI arrests

3

OUI Drug arrests

1

Juvenile OUI

(drivers given Standardized
Field Sobriety Tests and
determined to be not impaired)

What these numbers cannot quantify

is the number of impaired individuals that were deterred
from getting behind the wheel because of these high
visibility enforcement efforts.



At many of these details, officers and
deputies heard numerous comments
and saw social media posts about
heightened enforcement in their communities.
They also observed more rideshare vehicles
and taxis, along with vehicles left in parking lots
after establishments closed.

TOGETHER WE CAN PREVENT IMPAIRED DRIVING IN MAINE

Save The Date

OUI WEEK 2026



A comprehensive week of FREE impaired-driving training for Maine law enforcement, prosecutors, and other stakeholders involved in the investigation and prosecution of impaired-driving cases.

Day 1: OUI Fundamentals

Day 2: ARIDE Day 1

Day 3: ARIDE Day 2

Day 4: Cannabis Impairment Detection Training

Day 5: OUI After the Arrest

Sponsored by:

dirigosafety.com



IF YOU ARE CONNECTED TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL OR A HIGH SCHOOL, AND WOULD LIKE TO CHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING THE CHOICES MATTER PROGRAM TO YOUR AREA, WE WOULD LOVE TO CONNECT! AND! IT'S NOT TOO EARLY! WITH THE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF THE MAINE BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY, WE'RE ALREADY LINING OUR WEEKS WITH SCHOOLS FOR THIS UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, AND WE WILL KICK OFF OUR EVENTS STARTING IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

IF YOU'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION, OR WANT TO CHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR ATTENDANCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO HILLARI MORGAN, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS, AT HILLARI@ALLIANCEIMS.COM.



Help Me Grow Maine

211

Maine

A Solution to Help Young Children Shine



Help Me Grow is a central access point designed to connect families to information and services about child development and community resources.

In partnership with 211 Maine caregivers and providers can contact Help Me Grow for additional support. Help Me Grow will listen, link families to services, and provide follow-up to both caregivers and referral sources.

How It Works:

Eligibility

We are available at no cost to all Maine children, birth to eight, and their families/caregivers. Parents can also call for assistance during pregnancy.

Centralized Access Point

We assist caregivers and child health providers in connecting children to the grid of existing community and State resources that can help them thrive, through a "warm hand-off" from families to resources.

Resources

We help support a network of connected service providers, that can effectively serve families in Maine who have a variety of needs.

Developmental Screening

We promote working with families to recognize developmental milestones and utilize the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) to assess development. If concerns are identified in the screening process, we work with families to connect to early intervention professionals for further assessment.

Consider Referring A Family When:

- You are unsure what services a family might be eligible for, but know they need support.
- A family needs additional support navigating next steps in accessing resources (CDS, WIC, etc.).
- A screening needs to be completed, or family needs support completing an online ASQ®.



Scan QR Code to the right
to learn more

