Drive safely ALL the time

Recent three-year total crashes involving moose (1200)

Moose Crash Rate
Higher Rate Lower Rate

CRASHES BY MONTH

PERCENT OF TOTAL

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

RELATIVE SIZE OF A MOOSE AND A DEER COMPARED TO A SIX-FOOT PERSON AND A MID-SIZE AUTOMOBILE

Tip: Deer eyes reflect light from headlights very well. But because moose are taller, drivers won’t see their eyes reflected in the headlights. This makes moose even harder to see in time to avoid a collision.

MaineDOT

For More Information mainedot.gov

Keeping You and Maine’s Wildlife Safe
Pay attention and keep to the speed limit.
Driver distraction and inattention, combined with excess speed, often result in vehicle-wildlife collisions. Always scan the roadside as well as the road. Reducing speed at night greatly improves safety.

Good visibility is a must.
In reduced visibility due to darkness, rain, or fog, travel speed should be adjusted to the conditions. Slowing down when visibility is poor greatly increases your safety.

Animals live in the woods.
Be alert in rural and forested areas. Deer are commonly seen near fields and orchards. Moose are often found near wetlands. Use high beams whenever possible. Watch for the reflective eyes of deer and the silhouette of a moose.

“Herd” the one about the traveling moose?
Moose and deer often travel in small groups. If one animal crosses the road, you can bet that there are more animals nearby that may be crossing.

How far ahead can you see?
Do not drive “beyond your headlights.” If you can’t stop within the distance of your headlight visibility, you could hit something just beyond your viewing area. You won’t see the animal in time to stop.

The moose standoff.
If you see a moose standing in or near the roadway, use extreme caution, especially during mating season from August through October.
- Slow down.
- Do not try to drive around the moose.
- Stay in your vehicle. Do not get out to observe or to chase it off the road. By getting out of the car, you put yourself and other drivers at risk. Moose can be unpredictable and may attack your vehicle.
- Give moose plenty of room and let them wander back off the road.

Believe it or not!
What at first appears to be a gentle, lumbering moose can suddenly charge a car, then stride quietly away.

What if a crash is unavoidable?
If a crash with an animal is imminent, apply the brakes and steer straight. Let up on the brakes just before impact to allow the front of your vehicle to rise slightly and aim to hit the tail end of the animal. This can reduce the risk of the animal striking the windshield area and may increase your chances of missing the animal. Duck down to protect yourself from windshield debris.

Be aware that wildlife collisions can occur at any time, under almost any circumstances and anywhere in Maine. Moose have been hit in heavily populated neighborhoods in Portland, Lewiston-Auburn, and Bangor - Maine’s three largest communities. So, pay attention, stay alert and always remember... safety is no accident.