Recreational Activities

If your winter includes recreational activities please be sure to:

Share the Trails

People enjoy different activities on Maine's trails during winter. Riders of snowmobiles, other recreational vehicles, cross country skiers and snowshoers need to be aware of and courteous to each other

Plan Ahead

Proper clothing, a prearranged route and proper maintenance of your seasonal equipment will help ensure your time outdoors will be safe and fun. Always inform someone about your travel plans.

Cross Safely

When crossing roads on your snowmobile or recreational vehicle, come to a complete stop and be sure no vehicles are approaching from either direction. Cross the road at a right angle.

Beware of Ice Conditions

Approach bodies of water with caution. Before crossing be sure that the ice is safe for your method of travel. Changing weather can affect ice conditions. If in doubt, choose an alternate route.

Stay in Control

Operate your snowmobile or recreational vehicle at a safe and reasonable speed for existing conditions. NEVER operate any vehicle after you have been drinking. OUI charges in Maine are not limited to the roadway.

Celebrations

Festivities frequently involve traveling and alcohol consumption. To ensure that you are safe and happy:

Never Drink and Drive

Think ahead before you drink. Arrange for a designated driver, cab, or other safe means to get home **BEFORE** you meet friends or go to a holiday party.

- Don't Let Friends Drink and Drive Anyone who has been drinking should not be driving. Ask for their car keys and find them a ride, arrange for a cab, or call a friend or family member to take them home.
- Consider the Consequence

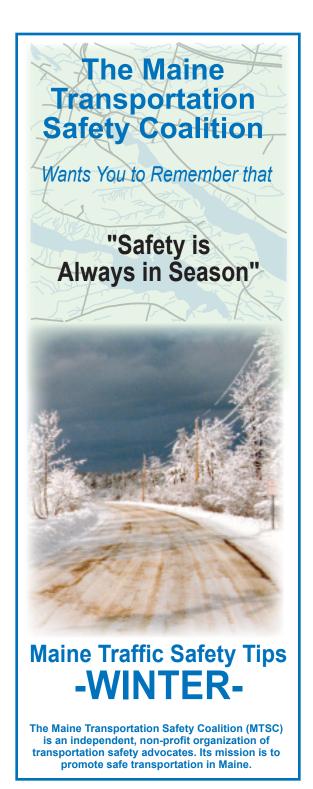
Any amount of alcohol will impair your driving. As few as 2 or 3 drinks can make you legally intoxicated. It is **NEVER** worth the risk of getting behind the wheel if you have been drinking. Don't risk your life, your passengers' lives or the lives of others on the road. Keep in mind, an OUI conviction will result in a criminal record and loss of driver's license.











Maine Traffic Safety Laws

Be Responsible With Alcohol

- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to transport alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle, unless they are doing so as part of their employment or at the request of a parent.
- Anyone who provides alcohol to a minor, or allows a minor under their control to possess or consume liquor, may be fined \$2,000 and/or sentenced up to one year in jail.
- Social hosts may be sued for negligent or reckless conduct if they provide alcohol to any individual and that person causes property damage, bodily injury, or death.
- Refusal to take a blood alcohol test will result in an automatic administrative license suspension of at least 275 days.

Always Fasten Your Seat Belt

The MTSC recognizes the health and safety benefits of wearing your seat belt. Maine law requires all occupants to be properly secured. Children under 12 years old must be properly secured in the back seat.

FMI call 1-800-698-3624, ext. 4288.

Be Sure You Are Visible

Maine law requires that headlights be turned on when wipers are in use.

Report Highway Incidents/Recreational Incidents

Crashes involving death, personal injury, or damages of \$1,000 or more must be reported immediately to local police, sheriff's department, or State Police. Please call the State Police if you see a disabled vehicle.

Courtesy & Caution

- Watch for people and equipment...
 working to clear snow and ice from the roadways,
 railways, walkways, driveways, parking lots and
 hydrants
- Ślow down and keep a safe distance

If the road is wet or slippery it does not provide the grip your tires need; you have to drive slower than you would on a dry road. Reduce your speed from posted limits. Some guidelines:

- Wet road......Slow down 5 to 10 m.p.h.
- Packed snow....Slow down to half speed
- Ice.....Slow to a crawl Unsafe speed on slippery roads can lead to

Unsafe speed on slippery roads can lead to dangerous Run Off Road and Head On crashes.

Emergency/Information Numbers

Maine State Police.....1-800-452-4664 (Cellular 911)

Maine Turnpike Authority.....1-800-675-PIKE (Travel Conditions) (7453)

AAA.....1-800-222-4357

MaineDOT Travel Information......Dial 511 or go to www.511maine.gov

For more information contact:

The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition P. O. Box 818

Augusta, ME 04332-0818

www.themtsc.org



Cold Weather Situations

To ensure you and your vehicle are prepared:

Watch for Winter Hazards

- Be aware of winter challenges including: slippery roads, snow plows, sand spreaders and snow banks.
- Watch for plow trucks backing out of driveways.
- If you must pass a plow truck use extreme caution.
- High snow banks diminish visibility making other vehicles, pedestrians and children at play difficult to see.
- Weather conditions can change drastically on winter days. Be particularly cautious of "black ice" that forms when wet surfaces freeze on bridges, in shaded areas and at night.

Scrape and Store

- Always scrape all windows and clear the snow from all surfaces including headlights and brake lights of your vehicle before starting out. Visibility is important. Make sure you can see and be seen.
- Emergency equipment (such as a blanket, extra gloves, shovel, jumper cables and sand or kitty litter) could be a lifesaver in a bad weather breakdown.
- Proper maintenance of your vehicle is especially important during cold weather months. Be sure you have sufficient antifreeze, wiper fluids and keep your gas tank full.

