

Roadway Work

Be alert for maintenance crews out to repair winter damage. Travel slowly and carefully through, or around, roadway work zones. Always be cautious around slow-moving mobile operations and always remember to "Give 'em a Brake".

Train Safety Awareness

A train can appear at anytime. To avoid dangerous situations be aware of:

● Train Facts

Because of its size, a train appears to be traveling slower than it actually is. Trains cannot steer to avoid a collision. A train traveling at 55 MPH needs approximately one mile to stop. The average train weighs approximately 12 million pounds!

● Rail Crossings

Almost two-thirds of vehicle collisions with trains occur during daylight hours, and in one quarter of these the car hits the train! Watch for advance warnings of an approaching railroad crossing. The crossbuck (railroad crossing sign) requires vehicles to yield the right of way to trains when crossing over railroad tracks. Slow down and always be on the lookout for an approaching train. **NEVER** pass, stop, or shift gears while on a rail crossing.

● Trespassing Rules

Railroad tracks are private property. When crossing at any place other than a proper crossing you are trespassing and can be arrested.

● NEVER...

- Ride an ATV or bicycle on or beside railroad tracks
- Fish off a railroad bridge
- Allow children to play on tracks
- Try to hitch a ride by jumping on to a moving train
- Put objects on the tracks
- Drive around lowered gate arms

Celebrations

Proms, graduations and weddings come with spring. Remember to:

● Act Responsibly

- Encourage young people to attend chemical-free celebrations
- Arrange alternative transportation for students attending proms and graduation parties
- Never let friends drink and drive

Cleaning and Hauling

Extend spring cleaning to your vehicle.

● Interior Vehicle Upkeep

- Remove scrapers, snow brooms and other winter items
- All unsecured items can become flying objects and cause injuries in a sudden stop or crash (store needed items in the trunk or on the floor of the back seat)
- Clean all interior windows

● Hitching Hints

- Adjust all mirrors so that you have a good overall view
- Make sure to use a secure hitch that is appropriate for your vehicle and always connect the safety chains
- Be sure all the lights are connected and working properly
- Make sure the brakes are connected properly

● Hauling Tips

- Pay close attention to the track of the trailer when you're turning
- Allow a longer distance for braking and lane changes
- Use extreme caution when backing up



This brochure is provided by the MTSC in cooperation with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety and the **MaineDOT**

The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition

Wants You to Remember that

"Safety is Always in Season"



Maine Traffic Safety Tips -SPRING-

The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition (MTSC) is an independent, non-profit organization of transportation safety advocates. Its mission is to promote safe transportation in Maine.

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 Safety 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

Always Obey the Speed Limit

Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limits in Maine are:

- School Zones:..... 15 m.p.h.
- Business/Residential:..... 25 m.p.h.
- Open Highways:..... 45 m.p.h.*
- Interstate:..... 65 m.p.h.*

*Lower Limits may be posted in some areas. Be aware of your speed and the posted limits. In Work Zones, speed limits are often reduced and fines doubled.



More Maine Traffic Safety Laws

Be Sure You Are Visible

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

Report Highway Incidents

Crashes involving death, personal injury, or damages of \$1,000 or more must be reported immediately to local police, sheriff, or state police.

Please call the State Police if you see a disabled vehicle.

Report Changes of Address

Maine law requires that changes in name and address be provided to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles within 10 days of change. This allows law enforcement and EMS to have current information in emergency situations.

Registration and Inspection

All vehicles owned and operated in Maine must be inspected and registered yearly. The registration month and year appears on the license plate. The inspection month appears on the inspection sticker on the windshield. Vehicle owners are responsible for keeping track of these dates.

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

Spring Means...

Outdoor Activities and Travel

● Road Conditions

Spring can bring heavy rains. Reduce speeds when roadways are saturated with water to avoid hydroplaning. Never travel through standing water if you aren't sure of the depth since pot holes may be hiding beneath the water surface. Be sure to use caution when traveling on muddy surfaces as mud reduces friction and can affect braking and cause unexpected skidding.

Weather conditions can change drastically throughout the spring. Be particularly cautious of "black ice" that can easily form when wet surfaces freeze on bridges, in shaded areas and at night.

Watch for Frost Heaves.

● Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Spring is the time that children and adults head back outside to walk or ride bicycles. Be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as their trusty canines. Provide all road travelers adequate room. Crosswalks can often be faded after enduring the Maine winter, so be aware of crosswalk warning signs and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

● Watch for Moose

Stay alert for wildlife. Moose crashes are most frequent during May and June. Be especially careful at night **slow down and avoid distractions**. Continually scan the road.

