

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.



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 **-WINTER-**

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 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
- **Slow 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 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



Winter Means...

• 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 anti-freeze, wiper fluids and keep your gas tank full.

