

## School Is In Session

Lots of movement! Please pay particular attention to:

### School Buses

As school buses return to the roads, children gather at bus stops. Slow down and watch for children. Flashing yellow lights mean "caution the bus will be stopping". Be prepared to stop. Never pass a bus with flashing red lights.

### School Zones

This is the time of year when teens are driving back and forth to attend school, after-school activities, athletic practices and events.

#### Be alert, watch for:

- Entering and exiting buses
- Students walking or riding bikes
- Adults dropping off students
- Students converging within the school area

### Child Passenger Safety

Everyone is in a hurry. Please take the time to **make sure your child is safely secured in the vehicle.**

## 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** including proper child seat and booster seat use call 1-800-698-3624, ext. 4288.



## Seasonal Traditions

Fall offers a host of traditions such as viewing foliage, hunting, harvests, back to school activities, homecomings, Halloween and Thanksgiving. To be safe throughout the fall:

### Never Drink and Drive

Be responsible. If you'll be operating a vehicle, refrain from alcohol or drug use, or if you choose to drink, arrange for a designated driver. Never ride in a vehicle that is being operated by someone who has been drinking or using drugs.

### Share the Road

- Watch for ATV's or farm machinery that may be crossing or traveling along a roadway.
- Be particularly cautious during times of dusk or darkness. All pedestrians should ensure that they are visible by wearing reflective clothing or accessories.
- Be on the lookout for walkers, bikers and joggers-give them plenty of space.

### Stay Alert and Keep Your Eyes on the Road

Pull safely off the roadway to view the fall foliage. Do not pull over if there is not adequate room along the shoulder. Pay attention to traffic if you are standing along the roadside. **Do not stop along the Maine Turnpike or Interstate Highways unless it is an emergency.**



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 -AUTUMN-

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 Transportation Laws

## Open Container Law

Operators and passengers in a vehicle on a public way, including a right-of-way, are prohibited from consuming alcohol or possessing an open alcoholic beverage container. The vehicle operator is responsible for any violation of this law.

## Crash Reporting

The monetary amount of property damage for which a motor vehicle crash must be reported is \$1,000 or greater.

## Pickup Trucks

Persons under the age of 19 are prohibited from riding in the back of a truck with a few exceptions such as when in parades or for workers in work related vehicles.

## Railroads

The fine for walking or standing on railroad tracks or bridges carries a fine of \$5-\$100 for the first offense, \$100-\$500 for a second offense and \$500-\$1,000 for a third and subsequent offenses.

## Bike Helmets

The Bicycle Safety Act requires operators and passengers of bicycles under the age of 16 to wear bicycle helmets.

## Crosswalks

Operators of motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians within any part of a marked crosswalk that is not regulated by a traffic control device.

## Visually-Impaired Pedestrians

Failure to yield the right of way to a visually impaired person is a specific traffic infraction, with fines no less than \$50 or no more than \$1,000.

# Some Safe Driving Reminders

## Lane Departure Crashes...

(Head-On and Run Off Road) are the deadliest crash type in Maine, resulting in about 70% of the state's traffic fatalities.

- Stay in your lane by driving at a safe and legal speed and paying attention to the driving task .
- Be aware of the road conditions and drive accordingly.

## Aggressive Driving

Greatly increases your risk of a crash. Keep yourself and others out of danger by:

- Obeying all signs and traffic signals
- Maintaining a safe following distance
- Passing only where it's safe and legal to do so
- **Traveling at a safe speed**

## 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](http://www.511maine.gov)

*For more information contact:*

**The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition**

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# Autumn Means...

## Changing Driving Conditions

### ● Days Are Shorter

Turn your lights on when the early morning or late afternoon sun is low AND when it's foggy or raining. Be sure pedestrians and other drivers see YOU! Also adjust to changing sun glare conditions.

### ● Road Work Goes On

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security because summer repairs and construction are nearing completion. Observe posted warnings, flagpersons and speed limits.

### ● Animals Are Preparing For Winter

Stay alert for deer, moose, bear, or other wildlife that can enter the roadway at any time. Crashes with deer increase dramatically in the fall and peak in November. Headlights do not reflect off the eyes of a moose. Scan the roadway and roadsides and drive at a safe speed to increase your chances of avoiding a collision. **Slow down at night.**

### ● Driving Can Be Tricky

Wet leaves or early morning ice can make roads slick, especially in shaded areas. Know the road conditions and drive accordingly. Bridges do freeze before most road surfaces!

