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MaineDOT Flash Facts, Topic : Summer Holiday and Tourism Safety (Memorial Day through Labor Day), 2008

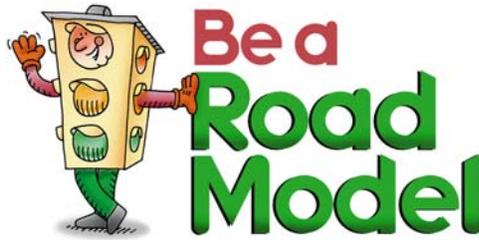
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MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Summer Holiday and Tourism Safety (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Whether from Maine or visiting, be prepared for a safe trip. Many people are traveling on holidays to see their families, friends or take a vacation. If you're traveling, make sure that you and your vehicle are ready for the trip. It's no fun to break down on the way - and it could be dangerous. Here are some reminder tips for a safe trip:

- Check all of your fluid levels (oil, coolant, brake fluid and windshield washer)
- Check your tires for proper inflation and adequate tread.
- Check your brakes.
- Check www.511maine.gov for the latest travel conditions.
- Any repairs that you have been delaying? Get them done-do not take chances.
- Headlights, tail lights, directional signals, and side marker lights all working? (properly operating lights allow you to see and be seen).
- Windshield wipers working well? (wiper blades should be periodically replaced.)
- Have you packed so visibility is clear and luggage is secure?

During Holiday travel, it's important to drive carefully to make sure you, your passengers, and other travelers arrive safely at their destination.

The real key to crash prevention is safe driving behavior. Here are some reminders to keep you safe on the road:

- Maintain safe and legal speeds and don't let distractions take your eyes off the road. Excess speed and driver distractions are the leading killers.
- Make sure everyone buckles up - no exceptions.
- Maintain a safe following distance – allow 3 seconds of travel time between vehicles.
- Stay calm and focused - expect to find heavy traffic especially during holiday weekends.
- Plan your route. If you become lost and need to check maps or directions, pull completely off the road.



- It's easy to overbook yourself and rush from place to place. Make sure you don't drive when you're tired.
 - Driving is a full time task. Don't let distractions take your eyes or your mind from what is happening on the roadway.
 - Be ready to safely react to problems on the road or the actions of other drivers.
 - Make sure the driver of your vehicle is sober.
 - Stay calm, and enjoy the ride! When driving-"Just Drive!"
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During the last three-year period, Maine has 70 traffic fatalities for the months of July and August, compared to 46 in other months. The following are reminders to help you and your family travel safe on summer weekends:

- Allow yourself extra time. Expect traffic delays.
- Drive with caution, concentration and common sense.
- Stay alert for changing road and traffic conditions.
- Watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Be alert for moose and deer, especially at night. 90% of moose crashes occur when it's dark. Use your high beams and regularly scan the roadside.
- Be patient in road construction areas and heed the signs.

Drive safely through construction work zones:

- Slow down and drive the posted work zone limit.
- Drive with caution, concentration and common sense.
- Stay alert for changing road and traffic conditions.

Be a Road Model: Have safe and fun holiday travel and always wear your safety belt.