



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
**Bureau of Highway Safety**  
164 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine  
04333-0164



Michael J. Sauschuck  
Commissioner

Lauren V. Stewart  
Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2022

CONTACT: Deputy Chief Michelle Small at [msmall@cityofbath.com](mailto:msmall@cityofbath.com) (207) 751-1292

CONTACT: Seth Allen, Maine State Police and Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Impaired Driving Reduction Trooper at [Seth.Allen@maine.gov](mailto:Seth.Allen@maine.gov) (207) 624-7076

**The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety would like to remind motorists:**  
*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

**[Augusta, Maine]** — This year’s national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign will take place from August 17 through September 5, 2022. The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety will once again be teaming up with municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies to proactively prevent fatalities and serious bodily injuries associated with impaired driving. One of the deadliest and most often committed - yet preventable - of crimes (impaired driving), has become a serious safety epidemic in our State.

“Alcohol alone, or the combination of alcohol with other recreational drugs or prescription drugs can lead to increased risk-taking and poor decisions. It is important to plan ahead for a sober ride or a safe place to stay, so that you can enjoy your end-of-summer celebrations and not risk your life or that of someone else”, says Lauren Stewart, Maine’s Highway Safety Director.

Thus far in 2022, Maine is experiencing a deadly trend of fatalities on our roadways, many of which have involved operators that are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. To date, 22 fatalities involving a driver of a motor vehicle or an operator of a motorcycle, have been recorded. All these operators have had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher.

“As law enforcement professionals it is vitally important to focus our attention and enforcement efforts on Impaired Driving. Safety on our Maine roadways is paramount”, said Deputy Chief Small from the Bath Police Department. “To be effective in the reduction of impaired driving incidents, we must work together. Through education and enforcement, we can create increased public awareness of this highway safety concern to work toward keeping impaired drivers off the road”, added Deputy Chief Small. “We all play a part in keeping our roadways safe. Let’s help keep Maine ‘The Way Life Should Be’ by playing your part, from the start...BE SMART! Please make good choices and think about how your decisions can affect others who live, work, and play in Maine”, said Deputy Chief Small.

---

Buckle Up. Drive Safely.

---



Office Located At:  
Central Maine Commerce Center  
45 Commerce Dr, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone: (207) 626-3840  
Fax: (207) 287-3042



**Janet T. Mills**  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
**Bureau of Highway Safety**  
164 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine  
04333-0164



**Michael J. Sauschuck**  
Commissioner

**Lauren V. Stewart**  
Director

The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety has a Roadside Testing Vehicle (RTV) that gets utilized by law enforcement agencies throughout Maine during Impaired Driving Details. This RTV is a tool that is used to screen motorists that are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Be on the lookout, the RTV might be in your area to keep communities safe and prevent impaired driving tragedies.

The following predictable effects on driving impaired at certain blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels is something to consider.

- BAC of .02, a person’s visual functions start to decline, and they start to lose their ability to perform two tasks at the same time
- BAC of .05, a person’s coordination gets reduced, steering a motor vehicle can become difficult and response to emergency situations slow down.
- BAC of .08, a person experiences reduced concentration and impaired perception
- BAC of .10, a person has reduced ability to maintain their vehicle’s lane position and their ability for appropriate braking is reduced
- BAC of .15, a person experiences substantial impairment in their ability to control a vehicle and their visual & auditory processing is reduced.

The following are some safe solutions to help Maine motorists avoid Impaired Driving.

- Always choose a designated driver that you can trust to remain sober when going out.
- If hosting a weekend gathering, make sure all your guests have a sober ride home.
- If you’ve had too much to drink, please call a taxi, Uber, ride-sharing service, a family member, or a friend to make sure you get home safely.

We want Maine Motorists to avoid expensive or deadly consequences, so remember the following, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”!

For more information on the risks of Impaired Driving, please visit our website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/impaired-driving/>



Buckle Up. Drive Safely.



Office Located At:  
Central Maine Commerce Center  
45 Commerce Dr, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone: (207) 626-3840  
Fax: (207) 287-3042