



Maine Guide Tips

“Rules of the Road”

Complimentary Information from the Maine Professional Guides Association

Our friends in the forest products industry are happy to share their roads, and have provided us with the following "Rules of the Road" to ensure everyone's safety. Avoid a potentially serious accident by following these guidelines.

These rules apply to *all* road users.

1. Give all logging trucks the right of way. Pull over and let them pass. Give them the same respect you would for an ambulance or fire truck.
2. Obey all posted speed limits and signs: **Maximum speed 45 MPH**
3. Seat belt use is mandatory for all operators.
4. Be prepared to stop at all checkpoints and reduce speed not to exceed **10 MPH**.
5. Lights on for safety.
6. In areas of limited visibility, always drive on the right side of the road and reduce speed. Zero visibility is common on dry and dusty roads.
7. Be prepared to stop at all times.
8. Never stop on a corner. Allow at least 500 feet of visibility in both directions.
9. Do not linger on roads or stop on bridges.
10. Park vehicles well off the road.
11. Never block side roads. Even roads that seem unused may be needed because of an emergency.
12. Reduce speed on freshly graded roads. You are more likely to blow a tire or lose control because of the loose gravel.
13. All drivers must have a valid state or provincial driver's license with the appropriate rating for the vehicle they are operating.
14. All vehicles must yield right of way to loaded trucks.
15. All traffic must yield to equipment working in road, pass only after operator's acknowledgement.
16. For additional safety, drivers should use MURS radios or CB radios (each region may be different) to call out mile markers and landmarks. Be aware that communication systems are sometimes unreliable and are not a substitute for prudent driving. Marine Radios are not allowed!
17. Drivers must be in control of their vehicle at all times.
18. *All vehicles* operating on logging roads must be in mechanically safe condition for the work that is being accomplished.
19. Load weights must be within the safe design capacity of the truck.
20. All pieces of wood must be below the height of a minimum of two stakes.
21. A minimum of two chains or straps must be used to secure each tier of wood (Tree length loads are required to have a minimum of three chains or straps).

These are minimum standards on industrial logging roads. Appropriate local, state and provincial laws apply to all other road systems.

These Rules of the Road are supported by all landowners and managers, including:

- Clayton Lake Woodlands, GP
- Domtar Woodlands
- Dunn Timberlands, Inc.
- Huber Resources Corp.
- Irving Woodlands, LLC
- Katahdin Forest Management, LLC
- Katahdin Timberlands LLC
- LandVest Inc.
- Maine Department of Conservation
- North Maine Woods
- Northwoods Management LLC
- Orion Timberlands
- Plum Creek
- Prentiss and Carlisle Management Co.
- Seven Islands Land Company
- St. Aurelie Timberland Co. Ltd.
- Stetson Timberlands, Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wagner Forest Management Ltd.