

The legal limit in Maine for your BAC is under .08% while operating a vehicle, although legally it should be 0%. Driving with no alcohol in your system allows you to have the privilege of singing your heart out to a childhood song and safely stopping to let an older woman and her dog cross the sidewalk. On the opposite end of the spectrum driving with alcohol in your system prevents you from stopping for that older woman and her dog crossing the sidewalk, ending in a collision no one wishes to hear about.

When you make a decision before you start your car to drive off it affects everyone else on the road. Some choose to drive without their seatbelts, which you should never do, simply because they forget about it. Forgetting about putting on your seatbelt is comparable to forgetting that you have a dog at home and a windshield that may not be able to hold you back like your seatbelt would in a collision. I have the ability that most may not remember to put my seatbelt on because I have a dog at home, a family, friends and a future to care about, not the “hassle” of a seatbelt. Before starting my car I always remember, “how am I feeling?” as a preparation for how I should drive, besides safe. If I am extremely excited about amazing news I just heard I always remind myself that just because I am shooting forward in my life gives me no reason to go shooting forward through traffic.

Late nights, going out on the town, and going to fun parties that you’ll never forget are all factors that many disregard when they decide how to spend that night. Having a couple drinks is totally acceptable but what is not acceptable is getting behind the wheel after one too many drinks. When someone has too many drinks their vision gets multiplied and their brain is not up to top functionality. Having lines multiplied and time slowed down is increasing the chances of getting into a very life threatening accident. After a late night, going out on the town and going to fun parties that I’ll never forget gives me the ability to get behind the wheel after I made the choice to stray away from any alcoholic beverage. Although I stray away some don’t and because one person decides it’s okay to drive while intoxicated, I am not at risk of a life

threatening accident because someone thought they were okay to drive. When someone drinks and drives, they are not only risking their lives but are also risking everyone else's that are driving on the road that day or night. Drinking and driving is not a safe way to live, risking your life and many others just to get home instead of calling a friend or family member that you are risking not seeing again with the possibility of getting into a deadly car accident because the yellow lines were everywhere and it didn't seem like you may have been going fast.

If you are ever in a good conversation with someone it is always hard to stop. I love chatting with my friends, texting each other back and forth about the latest drama or latest new fashion. I have learned to never text and drive because that split second you look down will make the difference of one more split second of life or your last. Pull over, put your hazard lights on, and put the vehicle in park if it is an important call or text you must take. For the best safety everyone should wait until they reach their destination to answer a text or call someone back. Having the ability to make that important decision has kept my car in one piece but most importantly my life in one as well. Texting and driving distracts you for more than one second, it distracts you from the car stopped in front of you or the eighteen wheeling that is merging into your lane. Have been in cars with someone who is about to text and drive truly shows who is more caring than others. It may be over the top but when someone chooses to answer a text or call while having a passenger gives another level and selfishness. When someone makes the choice to pick up that phone or reply to that text they are putting their passengers at risk just as much as themselves. Texting and driving has been banned for a reason, for safety for drivers as well as those around including pedestrians, and passengers. Never text and drive one more text to your friend about the latest drama or the latest fashion should not be your last.

Texting/Drinking and driving are just as risky as having the courage to poke a bear, with one small move your life is at risk from picking up the phone to picking up the bottle. Never text and drive, it is not worth it. The most important thing is your life, I am glad I have not drank/texted and drove at the same time, not only for my safety but the safety of others as well.