

Construction Zone Car Accidents in Maine: Who Is Liable When Another Driver Ignores Reduced Speed Limits?

Our Maine car accident lawyers explain how liability is determined

A construction zone can turn a careless moment into a life-changing [car accident](#) in Maine in the blink of an eye. When another driver barrels through narrowed lanes, flashing signs, and reduced speed warnings, the crash that follows often leaves a trail of disaster that impacts injury victims long after the dust has settled.

For injured drivers and passengers in Maine, that kind of wreck usually raises two urgent questions at the same time. The first is, how badly was I hurt? The second is, who's responsible for this? In many cases, the answer to that second question begins with the speeding driver. Maine has strict laws requiring drivers to slow down in construction zones. When someone ignores these laws and warning signs and causes a crash, such reckless behavior can be the foundation of a strong legal case.

At [Romanow Law Group](#), our Maine construction zone car accident lawyers know how quickly these claims can get complicated. A speeding driver in a construction zone on I-95 may be the obvious at-fault party. However, there may be other at-fault parties legally responsible for causing your crash and paying for your accident-related expenses. That's why you need a Maine car accident attorney to investigate your crash and determine exactly what happened.

Why construction zone crashes tend to cause more severe injuries

A normal speeding crash is dangerous enough. A speeding crash inside a construction zone can be even more chaotic and catastrophic. There's less room to react, less time to brake, and no room for mistakes in such a confined space.

Construction zones often involve narrowed lanes, uneven pavement, sudden slowdowns, work vehicles, temporary barriers, and abrupt merges. When another driver ignores reduced speed limits in that setting, the force of impact can become much more destructive. A [rear-end crash](#) can turn into a pileup. A sideswipe can push a vehicle into barrels, barriers, or oncoming traffic. A driver who would have had enough time to avoid a collision on a normal road may have no chance at all inside a work zone.

In almost every case, Maine drivers must slow down and observe reduced speed limits in construction zones, as mandated in [Maine state law 29-A M.R.S. § 2075](#). Specifically, the Maine Commissioner of Transportation has the power to restrict speed on a public way under construction or during maintenance when a lower rate of speed would minimize the danger of an accident. The law also allows temporarily reduced posted speed limits in certain municipal and utility construction areas when workers are

present, provided proper signs are used and covered or removed when the restriction isn't active.

Those reduced limits are there for a reason. They aren't suggestions. They're warnings backed by law and designed to protect motorists from being involved in a serious car accident in a construction zone.

Why the speeding driver is often the primary liable party

In most Maine construction zone crash claims, the driver who ignored the reduced speed limit is liable for causing the accident. Liability means the driver is legally responsible for paying for the accident. Speed matters in every crash, but in a construction zone, it matters even more because the road has already been made less forgiving by design.

In addition, if the driver was going extremely fast in a construction zone at the time of the crash, the penalties can be even higher. Under [Maine law Title 29A, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, 2074](#), a driver who travels 30 miles per hour or more above the maximum speed limit can face heightened penalties, and excessive speed in a marked work zone can become powerful evidence of negligence in a civil injury case.

This matters because a car accident claim is built on cause and effect. The driver chose to speed, reducing the driver's ability to react. The reduced reaction time resulted in greater force at the time of the collision, resulting in more serious injuries.

Other factors that can make the liability case against the speeding driver stronger include:

- The reduced speed limit was clearly posted before the crash.
- Traffic had obviously slowed, narrowed, or shifted.
- Other drivers had reduced speed, but the at-fault driver didn't.
- Witnesses, workers, or flaggers saw the vehicle moving too fast.
- Vehicle damage, skid marks, or electronic data show excessive speed.
- The crash happened while workers were present or while traffic was being actively redirected.

When all of these issues are taken into account, the driver's conduct can look less like a simple error and more like a choice to ignore an obvious danger.

Can anyone else be liable for a Maine construction zone crash?

Yes. In some cases, the speeding driver isn't the only party that's legally responsible (liable) for causing the collision.

A construction zone is supposed to guide drivers safely through an abnormal stretch of road. If warning signs were missing, a lane shift was poorly marked, traffic barrels were confusingly placed, or flagging was handled badly, a contractor, subcontractor, utility company, or public entity may also become part of the liability picture. That doesn't automatically let the speeding driver off the hook. It means fault may be shared.

For example, imagine you're driving through a road project on Commercial Street or I-295 in Portland. The reduced speed signs are posted, but the merge pattern is badly marked and a temporary barrier forces traffic into a sharp shift with very little notice. Another driver enters the zone far too fast and slams into your vehicle when traffic stacks up. That speeding driver may still be the main cause of the crash, but the work zone setup may also deserve serious investigation.

This is why construction zone claims often require a deeper look than an ordinary rear-end or lane-change case. The road itself may have become part of the story.

What evidence matters in construction zone car accident cases?

Work zones don't stay frozen in time. Signs move. Barrels disappear. Lane patterns change. Workers leave at the end of the day. Evidence that was easy to see right after the crash can vanish almost overnight.

That's why early evidence can make a major difference in a Maine construction zone car accident injury claim. The best evidence often shows not just that a crash happened, but why it happened and whether the zone was properly controlled.

Important evidence often includes:

- Photographs of the reduced speed signs, lane shifts, barrels, and pavement markings.
- Video from dashcams, nearby businesses, or work vehicles.
- Police observations about speed, road conditions, and traffic control.
- Statements from other drivers, road workers, or flaggers.
- Event data from the vehicles showing speed, braking, and steering input. This is especially common in cases involving commercial trucks, which are often equipped with black boxes that record this data in real time.
- Construction records, traffic control plans, and contractor documents.
- Measurements showing impact points, skid distance, and sight lines.

A Maine car accident lawyer may also need to move quickly to preserve records from contractors or agencies before they're lost, overwritten, or buried in paperwork. In these cases, delay can weaken proof.

How Maine's comparative negligence law can affect your claim

Insurance companies don't like clear stories when clear stories lead to full accountability. Even when another driver was plainly speeding through a work zone, the defense may still try to argue that you share part of the blame.

They may say you slowed too suddenly. They may say you should have changed lanes differently. They may say you were also driving too fast for conditions. That's where Maine's comparative negligence law becomes important.

Under [Maine Law 14 M.R.S. § 156](#), an injured person may still recover damages (legal term for financial compensation) if that person's fault is less than the fault of the defendant or defendants combined, but the damages are reduced to reflect the injured person's share of responsibility. If the injured person is found equally at fault, recovery is barred.

In real terms, that means blame matters a great deal. If the defense can shift enough fault onto you, your compensation can be cut sharply or even eliminated. That's one reason these cases shouldn't be treated casually. A strong claim isn't just about proving the other driver was speeding. It's about proving that speeding was the main reason your crash happened.

What if the construction zone itself was unsafe?

Not every dangerous work zone leads to legal responsibility for the people who set it up, but some do. A proper construction zone should have a clear traffic control plan, visible warning signs, and a layout that gives drivers reasonable notice of changes ahead. If the setup was inconsistent, hidden, misleading, or failed to follow the required traffic pattern, that failure may become part of the liability analysis.

This issue often comes up in construction zone accident cases involving:

- Missing or blocked warning signs.
- Reduced speed signs that weren't properly posted.
- Sudden lane shifts without enough advance notice.
- Poor nighttime visibility in an active work zone.
- Confusing barrel placement or inadequate flagging.
- Construction vehicles entering or exiting traffic unsafely.

A speeding driver can still be liable in those situations. But if the work zone was built like a trap, more than one party may need to answer for what happened.

What if the crash happened in a government road project?

Many Maine construction zones involve state or local roadwork. That can add another layer to the case because public projects often involve agencies, contractors, subcontractors, and traffic control plans that are spread across multiple entities.

In those cases, the investigation may need to answer several questions at once. Who controlled the work zone that day? Who was responsible for signs and lane shifts? Was the reduced speed limit legally in effect? Were safety measures followed? Was there a failure to warn drivers of a sudden change?

These questions don't replace the claim against the speeding driver. They often exist alongside it. A severe work-zone crash may start with one driver's reckless choice, but the full story can include failures by others who had a duty to make the zone reasonably safe. This is why you need an experienced Maine car accident lawyer investigating your crash right from the start.

What injuries are common in Maine construction zone speeding crashes?

When a driver ignores reduced speed limits in a work zone in Maine, the injuries are often more serious because the forces involved are higher and the road leaves less room for a vehicle to absorb the impact.

Common injuries in these cases include:

- Traumatic brain injuries, including [concussions](#) that are often missed at first.
- Neck and back injuries, including herniated discs and spinal trauma.
- Broken bones in the arms, legs, ribs, or pelvis.
- Shoulder and knee injuries caused by twisting force or vehicle intrusion.
- Internal bleeding or organ damage from violent impact.
- Permanent disability when orthopedic or neurological injuries don't heal fully.

For example, a driver slowing near Bangor for a lane shift may be rear-ended by someone racing through the work zone. On paper, it may sound like a simple rear-end collision. In reality, the injured person may end up with a brain injury, chronic neck pain, and months away from work. As a result, that "simple" crash can end up being much more complicated and have long-lasting consequences months or years later.

What should you do after a Maine construction zone crash?

First and foremost, your health should always be your priority. Even if you think your injuries seem minor, it's important to be examined by a doctor right away so they can diagnose what's wrong. Some serious injuries, especially head injuries and internal trauma, don't show their full symptoms right away.

There are also practical steps that can help protect your injury claim:

- Get immediate medical care and follow all recommended treatment.
- Take photos of the work zone, speed signs, lane shifts, and vehicle positions if you can do so safely.
- Get contact information for witnesses, including workers or flaggers.
- Keep your own notes about what you saw before the crash happened.
- Don't assume the insurance company will fairly interpret the scene.
- Speak with a Maine car accident lawyer before giving recorded statements.

Maine law also requires mandatory reporting of certain crashes. In most cases, it's the local police officer or the state trooper from the [Maine State Police](#) who fills out the official [Maine car accident report](#). A reportable car accident includes one involving bodily injury, death, or apparent property damage of \$2,000 or more, according to [Maine law 29-A M.R.S. § 2251](#). Other state reporting rules and regulations apply to serious car accidents in Maine. Even so, a police report is only one piece of the puzzle. Your legal claim may require much more than what fits on a standard crash form.

Why should you hire a Maine construction zone car accident lawyer?

A construction zone crash claim in Maine can become complicated almost immediately. The evidence may be difficult to find. Fault may be disputed. The at-fault driver's insurance company may try to blame you. Contractors or public agencies may also become part of the case. Meanwhile, you may be dealing with pain, lost income, and uncertainty about how long recovery will take.

That's where we come in. At Romanow Law Group, our Maine car accident lawyers know how to investigate speeding construction zone crashes, preserve work-zone evidence, analyze fault under Maine law, and push back when insurers try to water down a serious claim. We also know that these crashes aren't just about bent metal and traffic citations. They're about what happens to your body, your work, and your daily life after another driver ignores the rules of the road and causes your crash.

If you were hurt because of a speeding driver in a construction zone in Maine, don't let the insurance companies try to dictate what happens to you next. Get the Maine law firm that does whatever it takes to win. [Contact us](#) to speak with a Maine car accident

attorney who can investigate what happened, identify who may be liable, and pursue the full compensation you deserve for your high-speed construction zone car accident.