



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JULY TRAFFIC CRASHES CLAIM 29 LIVES, SERIOUSLY INJURE 105

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) preliminary traffic crash reports for July indicate 29 people were killed and 105 were seriously injured on state roads. In 2006 to-date, the state has recorded 268 traffic deaths — compared to 283 deaths at this time last year.

The July deaths include 17 vehicle occupants, 10 motorcyclists, one bicyclist and one ATV rider. Of the vehicle occupants killed, 10 were not wearing seat belts. Alcohol-related crashes resulted in at least 26 of the serious injuries; alcohol use in fatality crashes is unknown at this time.

Traffic deaths occurred in 22 different counties. There were three deaths each in Anoka and Wright counties and two deaths each in Dakota, Olmsted and Stearns counties. There was one death each in the counties of Chisago, Clay, Cook, Freeborn, Hennepin, Isanti, McLeod, Pine, Pipestone, Red Lake, Redwood, Rock, Sherburne, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, and Yellow Medicine.

Fourteen of those killed in crashes were ages 30–44. Motorists under 30 years old accounted for 12 deaths. Males were over-represented with 20 deaths.

More than a third of the deaths occurred between 5 and 10 p.m., and 12 of the fatal crashes involved vehicles running off the road.

In addition to crash data, the State Patrol reported 38 gas drive-offs; 508 pedestrians on roadways; 96 vehicle fires and 75 wrong-way drivers.

July traffic death totals will increase as additional reports are submitted. Preliminary statewide traffic crash statistics are compiled from State Patrol, and reporting county and city law enforcement agencies.

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