



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JANUARY TRAFFIC CRASHES CLAIM 27 LIVES, SERIOUSLY INJURE 66**

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) preliminary traffic crash reports indicate 27 people were killed and 66 were seriously injured on state roads in January.

The January deaths include 21 vehicle occupants, three pedestrians, and three snowmobile and ATV riders. Of the vehicle occupants killed, only 10 were wearing seat belts. Alcohol-related crashes resulted in at least 17 of the serious injuries; alcohol use in fatality crashes is unknown at this time.

Traffic deaths occurred in 20 counties. There were three deaths in Dakota County; two deaths each in Chisago, Hennepin, Itasca, Ramsey and Stearns counties; and one death each in Beltrami, Carlton, Carver, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, St. Louis, Scott and Wilkin counties.

Of those killed, 10 were ages 15–29, nine were ages 30–44, three were ages 45–59 and five were age 60 or older. Males were largely overrepresented with 17 deaths.

T-bone-type crashes and vehicles running off the road were the most reported circumstances in fatal crashes, and contributed to 11 and eight deaths, respectively.

Early morning hours, from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., claimed 10 crash fatalities.

January 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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Alcohol  
and Gambling  
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