



NEWS RELEASE

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MARCH TRAFFIC CRASHES CLAIM 19 LIVES, SERIOUSLY INJURE 69

Crash Claims First Motorcyclist Fatality of 2007

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) preliminary traffic crash reports indicate 19 people were killed and 69 were seriously injured on state roads during March.

The March deaths include 17 vehicle occupants, one motorcyclist and one pedestrian. Of the vehicle occupants killed, only four were wearing seat belts; belt use is unknown in four deaths. Alcohol-related crashes resulted in at least 16 of the serious injuries; alcohol use in fatality crashes is unknown at this time.

Traffic deaths occurred in 15 counties. There were three deaths in Hennepin County; two deaths each in Anoka and Kanabec counties; and one death each in Beltrami, Carver, Clay, Dakota, Goodhue, Lake, Martin, Nicollet, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Ramsey and Sherburne counties.

Of those killed, one was age 15–29, five were ages 30–44, five were ages 45–59 and eight were age 60 or older. Males were largely overrepresented with 12 deaths.

Head-on crashes and vehicles running off the road were the most reported circumstances in fatal crashes with six deaths each. The first motorcyclist fatality of 2007 occurred on March 23, east of New Ulm, when a 19-year-old male rear-ended a pickup truck.

Daylight hours, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., claimed 13 crash fatalities.

March 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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