



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2007

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STATE PATROL REPORTS SIX KILLED ON MINNESOTA ROADS OVER 4TH OF JULY TRAVEL PERIOD *All Traffic Deaths Were Motorists Under Age 30*

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ST. PAUL — Preliminary State Patrol crash reports indicate six people were killed on Minnesota roads during the Independence Day travel period (July 2–8). During 2002–2006, traffic crashes over the 4th of July travel periods claimed 32 lives of which 18 were alcohol-related.

The following crashes are being investigated by the Minnesota State Patrol, fatal crashes reported by city or county agencies are not included in this report. All information is preliminary.

Around 2:30 p.m. on July 3 near Princeton, a 1995 Buick Skylark driven by Brian Olson, 18, of Otsego, was broadsided by a semitrailer after Olson failed to yield at the intersection of Dolphin Street and Hwy. 95. Olson and his passengers, Jordain Rust, 15, of Ramsey, and Victoria Swanson, 17, of Zimmerman, were killed. The impact of the crash forced the semitrailer — which was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 95 — and the Buick into the path of a 2001 Daewoo Nubira that was westbound on Hwy. 95. The Daewoo's driver, Lisa Vandervegt, 23, of Ogilvie was also killed.

In Rice County on July 6 around 7:30 p.m., a semitrailer driven by Jason Fetchenhier, 25, of Janesville, went through the intersection of Hwy. 21 and Hwy. 99 and struck a Pontiac Grand Prix, killing the driver, Melissa Friedges, 16 of Webster.

On July 7 in Stearns County on westbound I-94, a Nissan Altima driven by Deborah Spotswood, 27, of Mobile, Ala., lost control and rolled over. Spotswood was ejected and killed. She was not wearing a seat belt.

“It's beyond discouraging that year after year, five or more people are killed over the 4th of July holiday period,” says State Patrol Lt. Mark Peterson. “While these deaths are tragic, it's vital motorists learn from mistakes made to avoid future crashes.”

To-date, 233 people have died on Minnesota roads.

Find more State Patrol preliminary fatal, serious and minor injury crash reports online at

<https://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/media/index.asp>.

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