



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AUGUST TRAFFIC CRASHES CLAIM 30 LIVES, SERIOUSLY INJURE 105** *Half Killed Weren't Buckled; One-Third Were Seniors*

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) preliminary traffic crash reports for August indicate 30 people were killed and 105 were seriously injured on state roads. In 2006 to-date, the state has recorded 322 traffic deaths — compared to 346 deaths at this time last year.

The August deaths include 20 vehicle occupants, seven motorcyclists, two bicyclists and one pedestrian. Of the vehicle occupants killed, half were not 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.

Of those killed three were under 19 years old, eight were ages 20–39, nine were ages 40–59 and 10 were age 60 or older. Males were over-represented with 21 deaths.

Traffic deaths occurred in 20 different counties. There were five deaths in Douglas County; three deaths each in Beltrami and Olmsted counties; and two deaths each in Carver and Stearns counties. There was one death each in the counties of Anoka, Chisago, Clearwater, Faribault, Hennepin, Lyon, Morrison, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Redwood, St. Louis, Traverse, Wabasha, Washington and Wright.

More than 75 percent of the deaths occurred during daytime hours, and 14 of the fatal crashes involved vehicles running off the road.

In addition to crash data, the State Patrol reported 68 wrong-way drivers, 58 non-motorized vehicles on the freeway and 29 gas drive-offs.

August 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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