

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS PREPARE FOR LABOR DAY TRAFFIC

Urge Motorists to Drive Safely

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers are expecting heavy traffic statewide during the Labor Day weekend – the last major travel holiday of the warm-weather season. On the heels of the Department of Public Safety’s “Take Back Our Highways” initiative, all available troopers will be on duty, working to ensure the safety of motorists through aggressive enforcement of the state’s traffic laws.

Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy said troopers will target those violations that often contribute to traffic crashes, such as speeding, driving while impaired, following too closely, improper passing and failure to signal. He said the increased trooper presence was made possible through the availability of overtime funding provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

“The recent ‘Take Back Our Highways’ campaign is testimony to the effectiveness of an intensive enforcement effort in reducing the number of crashes, deaths and injuries on Alabama’s roadways,” said Murphy. He said that last year 11 traffic deaths occurred in Alabama during the 78-hour Labor Day travel period. He added that at least five — almost half — of these deaths were alcohol related, and seven of the motor vehicle occupants who were killed were not using safety restraints.

Enforcement plans for the Labor Day period include checkpoints and special enforcement details, including saturation and line patrols in high-traffic areas. Murphy urged motorists do their part to ensure safe travel by buckling up on every trip, closely obeying speed limits and all other traffic laws, and practicing courtesy and patience on the roadways.

Troopers, along with local and county law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout Alabama, will also be targeting impaired drivers as part of the national safety enforcement blitz – “*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*” The enforcement and public awareness effort began last week and will continue through Labor Day, Sept. 3.

“Those who commit the crime of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs are responsible for hundreds of traffic deaths each year in Alabama. Troopers will be searching out impaired drivers, and they will be arrested,” said Murphy.

Troopers will focus patrols on heavily traveled roadways, including interstates and popular beach and vacation routes, in conjunction with Operation C.A.R.E. A cooperative effort by state police nationwide, C.A.R.E – Combined Accident Reduction Effort – seeks to promote traffic safety during holiday periods through enforcement and safety awareness.

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