



# Operation

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### **Southeast 'Zero for 24' Labor Day Campaign Successful**

High visibility patrols by state highway patrol and state police agencies over the Labor Day holiday period are being credited with keeping the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths down across the Southeast. Operation C.A.R.E. Region IV Coordinator Lt. Jeff Babb of the North Carolina Highway Patrol announced today that seven of the eight Southeastern states reported no DUI-related traffic deaths during the 24 hours of Labor Day.

"Operation Zero for 24 was a successful campaign for the state highway patrol and state police agencies throughout the Southeast," Babb said. "The only state that experienced DUI-related traffic deaths on Labor Day was Florida." Babb credited extensive enforcement along with educational efforts as key factors in keeping the number of alcohol-related deaths low in the eight states that comprise Region IV. Federal estimates are that someone dies in an alcohol-related traffic crash every 30 minutes in the United States.

In Alabama, nine people died as the result of traffic crashes on Alabama roadways during the 78-hour Labor Day travel period, fewer than the 13 deaths that had been estimated by the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Alabama was "Zero for 24," as neither of the two fatalities on Labor Day was alcohol related.

Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Copping praised the efforts of troopers in Alabama and throughout the Southeast for their efforts. "Your very presence on the roadways, coupled with an intensive enforcement campaign, had a decided impact on preventing crashes and increasing traffic safety throughout the region," he said. During the holiday travel weekend, Alabama troopers issued 3,191 speeding citations, 1,149 citations for failure to use safety restraints, and made 81 DUI arrests. Troopers also assisted 389 motorists.

Operation C.A.R.E., or Combined Accident Reduction Effort, is a joint effort by state police agencies nationwide to reduce traffic crashes, deaths and injuries through intensive enforcement of traffic laws and safety awareness efforts during selected holiday periods. Babb said C.A.R.E. provides a forum for state police agencies to share enforcement and public awareness initiatives that have proven effective in their respective areas. Preventing deaths and injuries on the nation's roadways is the primary mission of Operation C.A.R.E. State highway patrols and state police agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee took part in "Operation Zero for 24." The Thanksgiving holiday period is the next Operation C.A.R.E. holiday, a 102-hour period that begins Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. and ends at midnight, Sunday, Nov. 26.

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