

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### TROOPERS ENCOURAGE SAFE DRIVING DURING LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers will conduct line patrols, saturation details, checkpoints and aerial speed enforcement as part of their statewide Labor Day weekend traffic safety plan, according to Col. W.M. Coppage, Department of Public Safety director.

“Troopers will be working to protect the safety of holiday travelers,” said Coppage. “Motorists are urged to join in this safety effort by driving defensively, obeying speed limits and all other traffic laws, and buckling up on every trip.”

All available troopers will be on duty thanks to selective traffic enforcement grants that will fund the additional patrol effort. In addition to targeting speed limit violators, troopers will be watchful for drunken and other dangerous drivers.

Troopers also will focus enforcement in construction zones, including the Interstate-20 corridor. Selected troopers dressed as construction workers will utilize new laser speed detection devices to catch speed violators as part of “Operation Hardhat,” a new construction zone enforcement program.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 12 people may die as the result of traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Labor Day holiday travel period beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, and ending at midnight Monday, Sept. 1.

Last year 12 traffic deaths occurred during the 78-hour period, 10 on rural roads and two in urban areas. At least six of the deaths were alcohol related, and six of the crash victims were not using safety restraints.

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