

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### TROOPERS WORK TO ENSURE A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

Alabama's state troopers are gearing up for the Fourth of July holiday weekend and anticipated heavy traffic on Alabama's roadways. Along with routine patrols, troopers will conduct special enforcement operations such as line patrols, checkpoints and laser speed details throughout the 78-hour period from 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2, through midnight Sunday, July 5.

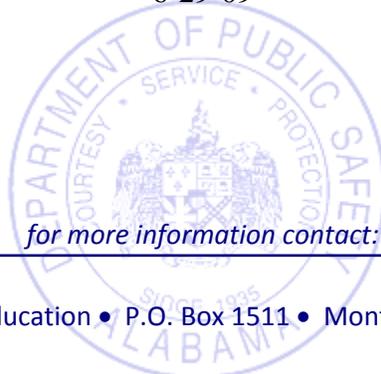
Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy urged motorists to be courteous and patient in the holiday traffic, and to remain focused on the task of driving. Murphy reminded holiday travelers to be aware of their surroundings and watchful for actions of other motorists, to signal when turning or changing lanes and to maintain a safe distance between their vehicle and other vehicles.

"Buckle up and make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained, drive within posted speed limits, never drive while impaired and obey all the traffic laws," said Murphy. "These traffic safety fundamentals can make a real difference in your safety and that of your passengers."

Last year during the 78-hour July Fourth holiday travel period, 16 people lost their lives in traffic crashes in Alabama. At least three of the deaths were alcohol-related, and 11 of the crash victims were not using safety restraints.

Murphy also asked motorists to be alert to the many troopers and other first responders who will be working during the holiday weekend. "Remember that state law requires motorists to safely move over one lane, or to slow down when moving over isn't possible, upon passing emergency vehicles stopped roadside with emergency lights activated."

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*for more information contact:*

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