

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS WORK TO ENSURE SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

Alabama state troopers are gearing up for safety during the Fourth of July holiday in preparation for the anticipated increase in traffic on Alabama's roadways. Routine patrols during the busy travel period will be augmented by special enforcement details including line patrols, checkpoints and laser speed details.

All available troopers will be on duty throughout the 78-hour holiday travel period from 6 p.m. Friday, July 2, through midnight Monday, July 5. Overtime funding provided by ADECA's Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Section and the Alabama Department of Transportation will help fund the extra patrols.

Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy urged motorists to exercise care, caution and patience. He said it is important for motorists to remain focused on the task of driving, and reminded drivers that even momentary distractions can lead to a crash. He also stressed the importance of buckling up on every trip. "Make sure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up and properly restrained," said Murphy.

He also reminded motorists that traffic laws and regulations are in place to help ensure their safety, as well as the safety of their passengers and all others who share the roadways. He said troopers would be especially watchful for those violations that often lead to traffic crashes, including drunken driving, speeding, illegal passing and following too closely.

Last year during the 78-hour July Fourth holiday travel period, five people, including one pedestrian and four vehicle occupants, lost their lives in traffic crashes in Alabama. A majority of those deaths – at least three – were alcohol-related, and three of the four vehicle occupants were not using safety restraints.

Murphy asked motorists to be especially alert to troopers and other law enforcement officers and first responders who will be working to ensure a safe holiday weekend. State law requires motorists to safely move over one lane, or to slow down when moving over isn't possible, when passing emergency vehicles stopped roadside with emergency lights activated.

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