

AGENCY AT A
glance
 SO FAR THIS YEAR...

- 4,918** impaired drivers arrested
- 13,823** collisions investigated
- 98** fatality collisions
- 12,601** distracted drivers
- 11,698** seatbelt violations
- 52,886** aggressive driver contacts
- 150,493** excessive speed contacts
- 18,568** CMV inspections

"Surviving Summer" campaign begins today

STATEWIDE - The Washington State Patrol (WSP), Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) and partner law enforcement agencies across the state are participating in a statewide "Surviving Summer" campaign, with a goal of reducing serious injury and fatality collisions during the state's 90 dangerous days on Washington roadways.

For the past five years, June 9 through Sept. 7 has become the **highest consecutive 90-day stretch for traffic-related fatalities in Washington**. According to the WTSC, **more than 967 lives were lost due to fatal crashes over the course of the past five summers** (June to August), with law enforcement responding to an average of more than 60 fatalities per month in June, July, and August.

The 90-day period on average accounts for 31 percent of all traffic deaths statewide. The top contributing circumstances to those fatality collisions have been excessive speed, impairment, distraction, and failing to grant right of way.

"We can all make choices that make our roads safer," said Mark McKechnie, external relations director for the WTSC. "We buckle up and put the phones down. We drive sober and encourage others to do the same. We can also ease off the gas a little, and we'll get to our destinations safely."

Those at risk are not just drivers - but also vulnerable roadway users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcycle riders.

Lowering the risk for everyone who shares the roadway requires a collaborative effort. Law enforcement partners across the state are asking the public to participate in their role of ensuring we all survive summer.

"Fatalities are at an all-time high," said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. "We need the help of everyone; be courteous, drive sober, slow down, so we can all enjoy the summer spending time with our loved ones."



MEDIA
Spotlight



MEMORIAL - Did you miss last month's WSP Fallen Officer Memorial event? Visit [here](#) to view a video as the names of those who will never be forgotten are read aloud during the ceremony. Visiting [here](#) will take you to a photo gallery of the event.

10 years: Remembering Trooper O'Connell Jr.



MARYSVILLE, Wash. - Friends, family, and colleagues of fallen Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Sean O'Connell Jr. gathered on May 31, 2023, for a remembrance ceremony marking the 10th year since we lost Trooper O'Connell in the line of duty from injuries sustained in a motorcycle collision. He was a 15-year veteran of the WSP.

9/11 survivor Tim Brown speaks at WSP



OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) was proud to host 9/11 survivor Tim Brown as he spoke on resilience of the human spirit, understanding grief, and finding a path to hope. The 20-year veteran of the New York Fire Department. His presentation is available on the WSP Lighthouse App for those who were unable to attend the Olympia or Yakima events this week. During his visit in Olympia, those in the audience were surprised to interact with Leo, a Hope Facility therapy dog.

>> NEXT WEEK
Chief tours across the state continue



DISTRICTS 1 & 3 - The Chief continues to tour the districts across the state. Check out next week's edition for images from his visit to Districts 1 and 3.

HAVE IDEAS YOU WANT TO SHARE?

SEND THEM IN - We strive to highlight the amazing work across the agency. If you have something happening in your division or district you would like to see highlighted in a future edition of *The Milepost*, please e-mail pio@wsp.wa.gov.

Troopers participate in mock DUI collision



MUKILTEO, Wash. - Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers participated in a mock DUI collision presentation at Kamiak High School this week. The scene is for the seniors as they get ready to celebrate prom and graduation to ensure they make good choices behind the wheel.

Special Olympics Torch Run in District 7

DISTRICT 7 - Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run this week. Great job to Sgt. Van Auken and Trooper Harding for going the extra mile when their three-mile commitment turned into about 10 miles!



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DID YOU KNOW?
More than **967 lives** were lost due to fatality crashes during the last five summers (June, July, & August) on Washington State roads.*

We all play a part in keeping our roads safe this summer...

- 1 Plan ahead before you hit the road**
Check for local traffic conditions and pack your patience - especially if you are traveling in unfamiliar areas.
- 2 Be on alert for our vulnerable road users**
This includes pedestrians, motorcycle riders, bicyclists - we all share the road.
- 3 Focus on driving when behind the wheel**
Always buckle up, adhere to posted speed limits, drive sober, and stay distraction free.
- 4 Secure all your items before you leave**
Heading on a summer road trip? Make sure all of your belongings are stowed safely.

90 DANGEROUS DAYS
June 9 to Sept. 7 has been the highest consecutive 90-day stretch for traffic-related fatalities on Washington's roads from 2018-2022.

Let's all choose to drive safe. Every trip. Every time.

*Statistics are provided by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). For more, visit wtsc.wa.gov.



Troopers participate in Family Link Carnival



LONGVIEW, Wash. - Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Hansen and Sgt. Winborne attended the annual Family Link Carnival in Longview this week. Family Link is a resource for families and children to promote positive changes.

WSP District 5 Spring 2023 Chief Tour

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