According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there have been 60 officer fatalities during the first half of 2019, a thirty-five percent decrease compared to 92 officer fatalities during the first half of 2018.

Firearm-related fatalities were the leading cause of officer deaths between January and June of 2019, with 27 officers shot and killed, compared with 31 over the same period in 2018.

Traffic-related fatalities were the second highest cause of officer deaths during the first half of this year, totaling 21 fatalities. This is a 25 percent decrease from the 28 officers killed during the first half of 2018. Of the 21 traffic-related fatalities, 11 officers were struck and killed while outside their vehicles, one officer was killed in a motorcycle crash, and nine officers were killed in vehicle crashes.

Of the remaining 12 officer fatalities, eight officers died as a result of a cardiac event, two from 9/11 related illnesses, one officer drowned, and one officer was crushed to death.

The State of Texas suffered the most fatalities in the first half of the year, with six deaths, followed by Illinois with 5 fatalities and Alabama with four. California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee all had three fatalities. Six states had two officers killed, while eleven states had one officer killed. There were also three Federal officers killed in the first half of 2019. Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia did not suffer a law enforcement fatality during the first half of 2019.

The average age of the officers killed in the line of duty was 42 years old, and the average length of service was 14 years. Of the 60 fallen officers, 5 officers were female, and 55 were male.
Traffic-related Fatalities

Of the 21 traffic-related fatalities, 11 officers were struck and killed while outside their patrol vehicles, one officer was killed in a motorcycle crash, and nine officers were killed in a vehicle crash. Four of those vehicular crashes were single-vehicle crashes.

The Illinois State Police suffered three traffic-related fatalities and the Colorado Highway Patrol two traffic-related fatalities in the first half of 2019. Two of the Illinois State Troopers and both Colorado Highway Patrol officers were killed in struck-by crashes.

Officers Struck and Killed by Vehicles

Struck-by fatalities represent 57 percent of all traffic-related law enforcement deaths in 2019.

Vehicle Crashes

Twenty-five percent of officers killed in traffic-related incidents were killed in automobile crashes. This number decreased 63 percent over the same time in 2018.

Struck-by crashes

- 57% Struck-by crashes
- 43% Other traffic-related fatalities

Circumstances of struck-by crashes

- On the scene of an existing crash: 4
- On a traffic stop: 4
- Checking on a roadway hazard: 2
- Conducting speed enforcement: 1
- Crossing the roadway: 1

NHTSA Traffic Safety Tips

Based on fatality information collected by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, these recommendations are intended to help prevent injuries and death as a result of traffic-related incidents.

Click-it…

Officers should always wear their seatbelts when operating a vehicle.

Right-side stop

Consider a right side (passenger) approach when conducting a traffic stop.

Arrive alive

Drive for the conditions on the road.

Register to receive Recently Fallen alerts at www.LawMemorial.org/RecentlyFallenAlerts

The data and statistics contained in this report are preliminary and do not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2020.