Traffic-Related Fatalities Involving Law Enforcement Officers

A Five-year Look at Officers Struck by Vehicles

2015-2019
“Struck-by” Crashes

• During the period from 2015-2019, there were 70 crashes in which an officer, while on foot or outside of their police vehicle, was struck and killed by a vehicle.

• This type of traffic-related death represents 28% of all traffic-related deaths during the period.
Breakout by Year

Struck-by Crashes 2015-2019

2015: 11
2016: 16
2017: 10
2018: 14
2019: 19
What Were They Doing When Struck

- Traffic Enforcement: 46%
- At Crash Scene: 38%
- On Scene of Call: 4%
- Assisting Motorists: 12%
Struck-by Crashes 2015-2019

- **34** were felonious
- **36** were deemed accidental
  - **12** of the striking drivers were impaired
  - **4** were confirmed to be distracted
  - **24** cases involved a violation of the “Slow Down and Move Over Laws of that state

MOVE OVER It's the Law
Additional Circumstances

- **6** of the officers killed were struck while deploying or removing tire deflation devices.
- **5** of the crashes were the result of adverse weather conditions, such as ice, snow or heavy rain.
NHTSA Regions

Region 10: 3
Region 9: 6
Region 8: 8
Region 7: 1
Region 6: 10
Region 5: 7
Region 4: 9
Region 3: 7
Region 2: 4
Region 1: 1
NHTSA Regions

[Map showing regions of the United States with regions labeled Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, Region 7, Region 8, Region 9, and Region 10.]
Breakdown of Struck-by Crashes by Agency Type

- Municipal: 33
- Sheriff: 11
- State: 21
- Other: 5
Key Take-aways

• 28% of all fatal crash types were Struck-by crashes
• 34% of struck-by crashes involved a “Slow Down and Move Over” violation
• 46% of officers struck were engaged in some type of traffic enforcement
Solutions

• Wear your reflective vest
• Tactically position your vehicle
• Conduct right-side (Passenger) approaches
• Conspicuously mark your vehicles with reflective striping.
• Learn about TIMs Traffic Incident Management