Traffic-Related Fatalities Involving Law Enforcement Officers

Police Vehicle Collision Incidents from 2015-2019
Traffic Related Fatalities From 2015-2019

• During the period from 2015-2019, there were a total of 85 fatalities related to collisions with other vehicles on the roadway.

• Officers involved in crashes with other vehicles is the leading category of traffic-related deaths accounting for 34%
Circumstances of Auto Collisions

What Officers Were Doing When Collision Occurred

- ESCORT AMBULANCE: 5
- INVESTIGATIVE/SURVEILLANCE: 4
- STRUCK ON ROADSIDE: 8
- ASSIST/BACK-UP: 2
- RESPONDING TO CALL: 6
- EXPEDITING TO CALL: 8
- PURSUIT/ATTEMPTING STOP: 11
- ON PATROL: 18
- ADMIN/DETAIL: 27

0 5 10 15 20 25 30
Seat Belts and Body Armor

• 43% of the officers involved in a fatal collision were NOT wearing their seat belt

• 33% were not wearing their body armor

(Body Armor can protect you in crash)
Fatal Auto Collisions By Agency Type

- 34 Municipal/City
- 22 Sheriff
- 20 State/Trooper
- 3 Sheriff/County
- 5 Municipal/City
- 1 Sheriff/Tribal
- 1 Sheriff/Territorial

Total: 85
Auto Collisions by NHTSA Regions

NHTSA REGIONS

Region 10: 5, Region 9: 6, Region 8: 2, Region 7: 6, Region 6: 21, Region 5: 7, Region 4: 22, Region 3: 12, Region 2: 7, Region 1: 2
NHTSA Regions
Additional Facts About the Collisions

• **20** of the vehicle collisions involved impaired drivers
• **7** listed adverse weather as a contributing factor
• **3** involved fatal collisions between police cars responding to the same incident
Key Take-aways

• 32% of the collisions occurred while officers were responding to admin assignments, training or details
• 43% of officers involved in fatal vehicle collisions were NOT wearing their seat belt
• 21% of the officers were simply on patrol when involved in the collision
Solutions

• Continue to train officers in defensive driving and Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC)
• Post reminders for seat belts and safe driving all over the station and in the patrol cars.
• Consider radio safety quips and Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) messaging
• Reward safe driving