

2021 SOLUTIONS ADDENDUM

KEEPING NAMES OFF THE WALL



National Law
Enforcement



MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

RESPECT. HONOR. REMEMBER.

IMPROVING OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Each year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) issues a Mid-Year and End-of-Year Report of law enforcement officer fatalities. These reports are designed to provide local, state, federal, tribal and military law enforcement agencies with the data they need to identify line-of-duty deaths and take proactive and preventive measures to reduce those deaths. For the first time, NLEOMF is issuing this Keeping Names Off the Wall: Improving Officer Safety and Wellness companion document to their Mid-Year Report. This document, prepared by the NLEOMF Destination Zero, and Officer Safety and Wellness (OSW) teams, provides over 50 resources aimed at improving officer safety and wellness.

Keeping Names Off the Wall: Improving Officer Safety and Wellness contains various links to data, infographics, interviews, videos and numerous documents. Many of these resources are contained in the National Officer Safety and Wellness Resource Center (www.destinationzero.org) and represent best practices of National Officer Safety and Wellness Award finalists and winners from throughout the nation.

This year, NLEOMF researchers and OSW staff have identified in the 2021 Mid-Year Report several issues of concern for law enforcement agencies and their officers, including the continued number of COVID-19-related deaths and the significant rise in traffic fatalities. According to preliminary data compiled by the National Officers Law Enforcement Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), as of June 30, 2021, 155 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers died in the line of duty.

The first six months of this year demonstrated that America's law enforcement officers are still battling the deadly effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with some 71 officers dying as a result of contracting the disease while executing official duties. COVID-19 related fatalities the single highest cause of law enforcement deaths occurring in the first six months of 2021.

The dramatic increase in traffic-related fatalities thus far in 2021 should also be a concern for law enforcement agencies nationwide. These 38 traffic-related fatalities, up 58% from the previous period last year, include 19 struck-by fatalities, which have increased an extraordinary 138% compared to the first six months of last year.

During the first half of 2021, 33 officers died from felonious assaults, including 28 officers killed in the line of duty as a result of firearms, three were beaten to death, three others drowned, and two additional officers were fatally stabbed. The leading circumstance of firearms fatalities were officers attempting to make an arrest. A total of four officers have been killed in ambush attacks so far this year.

During the first six months of 2021, 18 officers died of other causes, such as physical-related illnesses including heart attacks and strokes suffered while performing their official duties.

TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

According to the NLEOMF Mid-Year Report, 38 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents during the first half of 2021, compared to 24 over the same period last year, a 58% increase. Of the 38 traffic-related fatalities, 10 were automobile crashes involving a collision with another vehicle

or fixed object, five were single-vehicle crashes, and 19 were struck-by fatalities while on the side of the road. This year, four officers have been killed in motorcycle crashes, while during the same time period last year, one officer was killed.

The following section provides vital information on traffic safety programs which can reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities.

SEATBELT SAFETY

Prince George's County (MD) Police seat belt posters. "Arrive Alive!"

<https://tinyurl.com/h38f6btd>; <https://tinyurl.com/y7mv7amb>

Orange County (CA) Sheriff's Office's seat belt safety video, "For your partner, for your Family"

<https://tinyurl.com/2abvsytm>

Los Angeles (CA) Police Department video following a horrific crash between patrol vehicles

<https://tinyurl.com/bsy3jkxk>

Las Vegas (NV) Police Department gate reminder to officers leaving for patrol, "Belt up"

<https://tinyurl.com/ef5nuxs3>

SPEED REDUCTION

Orange County (CA) Sheriff's Office's safe driving and speed reduction video

<https://tinyurl.com/25uv9euj>

Yolo County (CA) Sheriff's Office crash reduction program, seat belts and speed reduction

<https://tinyurl.com/yx7p2hdy>

Hillsborough (NC) Police Department "Slower is Faster" traffic safety program

Article and program outline

<https://tinyurl.com/59967b43>; <https://tinyurl.com/fehjfboxe>

Prince George's County (MD) traffic safety program, "Arrive Alive," instituted after the agency experienced two traffic-related deaths in close succession

<https://tinyurl.com/yc6mxhwy>; <https://tinyurl.com/j3p75nsw>

NLEOMF video of Officer Mitchell from Wheeling, West Virginia, Police on slowing down, wearing your seat belt and driving for the conditions

<https://tinyurl.com/458mmkck>

PREVENTING ROADSIDE STRUCK-BY CRASHES

Article on officers directing traffic by Chief Shults of the Adams State College Police

<https://tinyurl.com/8ybpz8>

NLEOMF video of Officer Heather Munsterman, who was struck on a traffic stop by a texting driver

<https://tinyurl.com/458mmkck>

Responder Safety Institute is a not-for-profit organization that provides an online class for Traffic Incident Management designed to prevent secondary roadside crashes

<https://tinyurl.com/km4j9few>

GENERAL TRAFFIC SAFETY

Video of Snohomish (WA) Sheriff's Office's traffic safety program, 2017 Destination Zero

National Officer Safety and Wellness Award Winner – Officer Traffic Safety Category

<https://tinyurl.com/685c6wtm>

Las Vegas (NV) Police Department's Safe Driving Policy for seat belts, texting and clearing intersections

<https://tinyurl.com/5y74cth3>

Below-100 traffic safety, speed reduction, seat belts, and maintaining focus on driving

<https://tinyurl.com/2yeywet2>



FIREARMS SAFETY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

The NLEOMF Mid-Year Report identifies 28 officers who were shot and killed during the first six months of the year, compared to 27 during the same period in 2020. Of the 28 firearms fatalities, five were attempting an arrest, four each that died during tactical encounters and in ambush attacks, three each were killed responding to domestic disturbance calls, investigating suspicious activities or persons, and on disturbance calls.

Two officers were killed during traffic enforcement and two others were killed while serving a felony warrant. During this time period two officers were also fatally shot responding to burglary or robbery in-progress calls.

The following section provides important information on reducing firearms-related injuries and fatalities.

FIREARMS TRAINING

The Vacaville (CA) Police Department firearms training program incorporates de-escalation and crisis intervention (CIT) training scenarios.

<https://tinyurl.com/6nzmfcmw>

The Pell City (AL) Police Department has monthly firearms training. The trainings are scenario-based and include shooting and movement drills with a magazine change, loading and reloading drills, malfunction drills, transition drills, weak hand and off/hand shooting, deadly force scenario situations, hostage situation scenario and elevated heart rate shooting drills, among others.

<https://tinyurl.com/3d887wu7>

Nashville (TN) Police Department's firearms officer safety program, after one of their officers was shot multiple times

<https://tinyurl.com/bswds49c>; <https://tinyurl.com/54djoyd3>; <https://tinyurl.com/5ur9ux2a>

In 2013, the Dallas (TX) Police Department issued Downed Officer Kits to more than 3,500 officers. Each officer receives specialized training for treating traumatic injuries, resulting in an officer being saved by his partner using this kit a year later.

<https://tinyurl.com/9pys475s>; <https://tinyurl.com/2d3b8mrt>

Fairfax (VA) Police Department's grip and shoulder strength activities for improved marksmanship

<https://tinyurl.com/98t4phbb>

The University of Vermont Police Department's Tactical Care Kit PowerPoint presentation

<https://tinyurl.com/tpkzhu>

Police Chief Magazine offers resources on developing a tactical plan for an active shooter situation.

<https://tinyurl.com/n55f683p>

BALLISTIC RESOURCES & RESEARCH

Resources on protecting LEOs from the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice

<https://tinyurl.com/5czmfrba>

Body Armor for Law Enforcement Officers: In Brief from the Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections

<https://tinyurl.com/enj5xwx>

National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) Body Armor for Women assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/3f5fe5ms>

Comparing the Effects of Different Body Armor Systems on the Occupational Performance of Police Officers as published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*

<https://tinyurl.com/3rj7s85h>

The Norfolk (VA) Police Department's Soft Body Armor departmental procedures and regulations, 2021 Destination Zero National Officer Safety and Wellness Award Finalist – Officer Wellness Category

<https://tinyurl.com/a7spvzpy>

AMBUSH RESOURCES & RESEARCH

The International Association of Chiefs of Police's factsheet on ambushes made in cooperation with the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

<https://tinyurl.com/45w78rhs>

Articles on law enforcement ambush studies and specific strategies for surviving and preventing them from *Police1 Magazine*

<https://tinyurl.com/2vdwev7p>; <https://tinyurl.com/54s3kbcpx>

COVID-19 RESOURCES & INFORMATION

The single largest category of officer fatalities, according to the NLEOMF Mid-Year Fatalities Report, is the Other Category, which contains a wide variety of health-related deaths and other line-of-duty fatalities. Eighty-nine officers are listed in the Other Category.

In the first half of 2021, the largest sub-section of the Other Category is COVID-19-related fatalities

where some 71 officers have succumbed to the disease so far this year. Each of these officers have died as a direct result of their exposure while conducting official duties.

Eighteen officers died of other causes during the first half of 2021, compared to 14 fatalities last year during this same period.

The following section provides important information on COVID-19 and health-related issues to reduce officer fatalities and improve safety and wellness.

Article from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on “What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about (COVID-19)”

<https://tinyurl.com/34tzyttc>

Article from the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* on “The Immediate Impact of COVID-19 on Law Enforcement in the United States”

<https://tinyurl.com/2ppdevtz>

Destination Zero Technical Assistance Brief (TAB) with Dr. Jon Sheinberg, board certified cardiologist and lieutenant with the Lakeway (TX) Police Department on the COVID-19 vaccines, misinformation associated with them and the tactical importance of taking the vaccine

<https://tinyurl.com/jmmcd483>

Destination Zero’s “COVID – Top Five Things You Can Do To Protect Yourself Today”

<https://tinyurl.com/zpkp87n3>

NLEOMF Video Roundtable with Congressman John Katko, NYPD Deputy Commissioner John Miller and Dr. Alex Eastman, Senior Medical Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the need for early and accurate information, visible leadership and clear communication, and departmental support during COVID-19 and other public health crises

<https://tinyurl.com/5d2e83f3>

Frequently Asked Questions for Law Enforcement Agencies and Personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://tinyurl.com/t95jw7w>

IACP’s article on COVID-19: Health and Safety for Law Enforcement Families and Officer Wellness and Resiliency During the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://tinyurl.com/7jfp94f>; <https://tinyurl.com/xa7rkd62>

Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations Annex Template Instructions by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

<https://tinyurl.com/35eyuzua>

National Police Foundation’s COVID-19 Law Enforcement Impact Dashboard

<https://tinyurl.com/yfn98a44>

Department of Homeland Security’s Information for First Responders on Maintaining Operational Capabilities during a Pandemic

<https://tinyurl.com/6hpcx855>

Printable COVID-19 Factsheet & Checklist from International Association of Chiefs of Police

<https://tinyurl.com/e5tkp2tk>; <https://tinyurl.com/cwphm4xt>

Resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and first responders called, “Emergency Responders: Tips for taking care of yourself”

<https://tinyurl.com/2c6suyet>

DESTINATION ZERO

COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE
OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Destination Zero, an initiative of the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum, is designed to help agencies improve the health and safety of law enforcement officers across the country, from agent to correctional officer, from trooper to patrolman, from sheriff to constable. Destination Zero is searching for programs that benefit all.

The primary goal of the Destination Zero program is to create a platform that provides all U.S. law enforcement agencies with the ability to research successful and/or promising officer safety and wellness programs and identify the resources necessary to begin their own risk management initiatives.

Visit DestinationZero.org for more information and resources.

NATIONAL OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS AWARDS

The Destination Zero program is proud to recognize officer safety and officer wellness programs that proactively engage employees in initiatives that increase overall officer wellness and/or reduce line-of-duty injuries or deaths.

More information about the National Officer Safety and Officer Wellness Awards is available in **Award Categories and Criteria**. If you would like to nominate a law enforcement agency for 2021 **Submit Your Officer Safety/Officer Wellness Program** or contact us at destinationzero@nleomf.org or (202) 737-3400.





National Law Enforcement Officers M E M O R I A L F U N D

RESPECT. HONOR. REMEMBER.

Founded in 1984, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is dedicated to telling the story of American Law Enforcement and making it safer for those who serve. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Washington, DC, the Memorial Fund built and continues to maintain the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial — the Nation’s monument to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The Memorial Fund is a principal organizer of the annual National Police Week observance every May and hosts a Candlelight Vigil each May 13th to honor all fallen officers. In addition, the Memorial Fund maintains the largest, most comprehensive database of line-of-duty officer deaths, conducts research into officer fatality trends and issues, and serves as an information clearinghouse.



DESTINATION **ZERO**

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