

NHTSA 2021

THIRD QUARTER REPORT

During the Third Quarter of 2021, there were a total of eight traffic-related line-of-duty deaths, which brought the overall total to 44. That is 22% higher than in the Third Quarter of 2020, when there were 36 traffic-related line-of-duty deaths.

Of the eight fatal incidents that occurred, four were vehicle collisions, and four officers were struck by vehicles while out on foot. Six of those incidents occurred at night, but none involved inclement weather. Two of the officers who were fatally struck were in the process of laying out tire deflation devices, commonly referred to as “Stop Sticks.” In one instance, a police lieutenant was struck during a pursuit when he was out of his police car, but it is not clear if he was also attempting to deploy a tire deflation device to end the pursuit. The fourth officer was on the scene of a crash when another vehicle struck him.

The four vehicular crashes involved different circumstances in terms of the type of crash, but three of them were responding to calls for service when they were involved in a collision. The fourth officer was on patrol when they were involved in their fatal wreck.

The data gathered through the Third Quarter indicates that 47%, almost half of the fatal crashes, involved officers being struck by vehicles. Eight of those incidents occurred as officers were working existing crash scenes and were struck and killed by passing vehicles.

The number of officers struck in the current year by vehicles has surpassed the highest annual total recorded in the last ten years. In 2019, there were a total of 19 struck-by crashes recorded and there are already 23 cases in the first three quarters of this year.

All the officers who were killed in the Third Quarter were male, averaging 40 years old and 12 years of service. The NHTSA Regions most impacted by traffic-related crashes were Region 4, with 10 fatal incidents, and Region 9, which has experienced 10 fatal law enforcement crashes.

So far this year, four federal agencies, two tribal police departments and the territory of Puerto Rico have lost members due to traffic-related incidents. These fatalities occurred across 20 different states, with Arizona having the highest number (6) and California the next highest (5).

Visit <https://nleomf.org/officer-safety-and-wellness/> to learn more and get safety tips to help avoid crashes, injuries and deaths.



OFFICERS FALLEN: TRAFFIC-RELATED



Police Officer
Harminder Grewal
Galt, California, P.D.

EOW: AUGUST 26, 2021



Police Officer
Brian Russell Pierce, Jr.
Brooklyn, Illinois, P.D.

EOW: AUGUST 4, 2021



Deputy
Luke Gross

Hancock County, Maine,
Sheriff's Office

EOW: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

