

# NHTSA 2022 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), through its continuing efforts to reduce fatalities and injuries to law enforcement officers, has compiled the following traffic-related fatality data for the first quarter of 2022.

As a part of our long-established partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the NLEOMF collects, analyzes, and disseminates the latest data on law enforcement crashes. It is through this and other important collaborations that we work to provide law enforcement insight into the causes behind fatal crashes and the circumstances under which they commonly occur. This information is shared so that safety can be improved, and proactive steps can be taken to reduce these tragic incidents.

**In the first quarter of 2022, there were a total of 21 law enforcement officers killed in traffic-related incidents.** Seven of the officers killed were the result of being struck by vehicles while on foot. Thirteen of the cases involved officers being involved in vehicular collisions, with three of those crashes being single-vehicle crashes. One officer was killed in motorcycle crash.

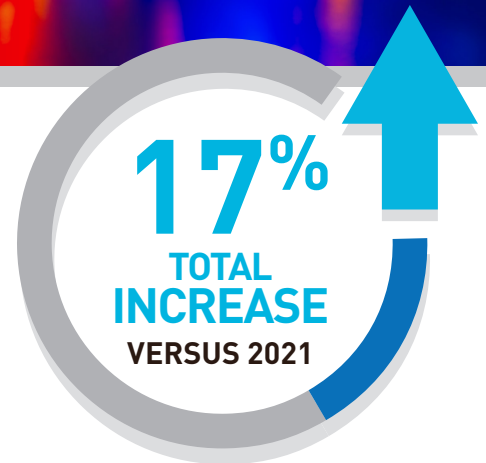
In comparison to the first quarter of 2021, when there was a total of 18 traffic-related line of duty deaths, **the current quarter represents a 17% increase in traffic-related fatalities.** In 2021, Seven officers were killed in automobile crashes, nine died when they were struck by a vehicle while on foot, and two officers died motorcycle crashes.

The most concerning statistic, despite the slight decrease from the first quarter of 2021, is that of the “Struck-by” category, where officers on foot were struck and killed by vehicles, generally while operating on the roadside. In a tragic case, **two Pennsylvania State Troopers were killed within the same incident when they were struck and killed by a suspected impaired driver while trying to help an individual walking on an elevated portion of Interstate I-95.**

An examination of the struck-by crashes in 2022 reveals that two officers were struck and killed while directing traffic, one was killed removing debris from the roadway, one officer was struck while detaining a suspect on the side of the road and one was killed by a fleeing vehicle as he attempted to use tire deflation device to stop him.

**Secondary crashes caused by distracted or impaired drivers continue to be the main circumstance for officers being struck and killed by vehicles.**

The 13 vehicle crashes that occurred in the first quarter of 2022, which represents an 86% increase from 2021, involved several different circumstances, but five were related to officers expediting to calls or to assist a fellow officer. One of those crashes involved the death of two law enforcement officers who were in the same



## AUTOMOBILE

↑ 86%

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2021 = 7

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2022 = 13



## STRUCK-BY

↓ 22%

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2021 = 9

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2022 = 7



## MOTORCYCLE

↓ 50%

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2021 = 2

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2022 = 1

TOTAL ↑ 17%

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2021 = 18

1<sup>ST</sup> QTR  
2022 = 21

car. One officer crashed during a pursuit, and another died in a crash as she tried to get over to the shoulder to assist a disabled motorist. The remaining crash fatalities occurred as a result of officers being involved in collisions while on patrol.

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The one motorcycle crash involved an officer being struck head-on by an impaired driver while patrolling the highway.

When examining the first quarter fatal crash incidents, it has been confirmed that in two of the cases, distraction was a contributing factor. Impairment was confirmed in six of the cases, and four of the cases involved a failure to "Slow Down and Move Over." Inclement weather or adverse conditions were cited in only two of the 2022, 1st quarter crash cases. Snow was cited as a contributing factor in one of the cases, and smoke from wildfires contributed to one fatal crash.

The largest number of fatal crashes in the first quarter of 2022 occurred in NHTSA Region 6, which encompasses Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. There were seven cases from Region 6 with five of these fatalities all occurring in the state of Texas.

The region with the next highest number of fatalities was NHTSA Region 4, which encompasses Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina and with five cases.

## SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:



**Wear your seat belt!**



**Wear high visibility gear  
when operating on the roadside.**



**Learn and apply  
the Traffic Incident Management  
(Tim) principles**



**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL FUND**

MEMORIAL MUSEUM OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS



# OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



**CAPTAIN COLLIN BIRNIE**  
Flint Michigan Police

Hit head-on in patrol car



**TROOPER TAMAR BUCCI**  
Massachusetts State Police

Crashed assisting motorist



**OFFICER TREY MARTIN SUTTON**  
Henrico County (VA) Police

Killed in collision with Semi

