

# NHTSA 2022 THIRD QUARTER REPORT

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), collects and analyzes fatal law enforcement crash data to track any emerging trends and to provide timely safety recommendations to the field.

**During the Third Quarter of 2022, traffic-related line of duty deaths were slightly higher compared to the same period in 2021.** In the first nine months of 2021, there were 42 reported line-of-duty deaths that involved officers being killed in crashes or struck by vehicles. As of October 2022, the overall number of reported traffic-related line of duty deaths is 44, a 5% increase.

## Struck-by Crashes Down

While the number of fatalities due to traffic-related incidents is up, the number of officers killed in “struck-by” crashes is down markedly. This fact is a silver lining, given the amount of attention the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and others have paid to the 2021 epidemic of struck-by fatalities.

At this same time in 2021, there were 22 reported fatalities of officers who were struck and killed by vehicles. Over that same period in 2022, the total is 12 cases, a 45% reduction.

## Vehicular Crashes

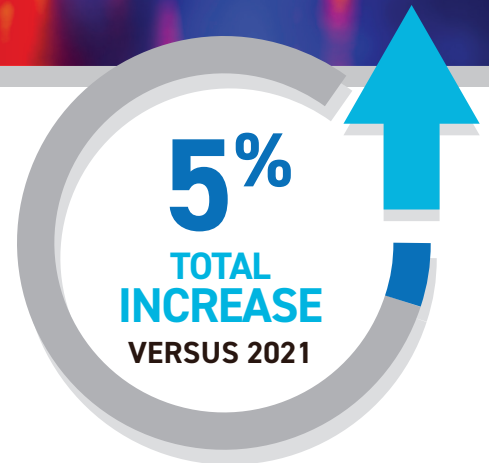
Unfortunately, the number of fatal automobile crashes rose in the first three quarters of 2022, from 17 in 2021, to 29 crashes. All these incidents have very different circumstances, and some were situations that were beyond the control of the officers—situations such as trees falling on vehicles or a portion of a highway overpass falling onto a police vehicle. A greater analysis of all these crash cases will be conducted and presented in an end-of-year report.

The number of motorcycle crashes over the same period in 2021 compared to 2022 remain the same at three.

## Third Quarter and Regional Comparison

When comparing the third quarter (July-September) in 2021, with the third quarter in 2022, there were seven fatal traffic-related incidents in 2021, compared to 11 in 2022. An increase of 57%.

In the first three quarters of 2021, NHTSA Region Four (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee) led with the highest number of law enforcement traffic fatalities, while in the first three quarters of 2022, NHTSA Region Six (Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) and Region Four are tied with the most law enforcement traffic fatalities.



### AUTOMOBILE

↑ 71%

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2021 = **17**    3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2022 = **29**



### STRUCK-BY

↓ 45%

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2021 = **22**    3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2022 = **12**



### MOTORCYCLE

NO CHANGE

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2021 = **3**    3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2022 = **3**

**TOTAL** ↑ **5%**  
3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2021 = **42**    3<sup>RD</sup> QTR 2022 = **44**

Some preliminary analysis of the 2022 fatalities has revealed that nine of the fatal cases involved impaired drivers. Three of the officers struck and killed were at construction sites, staffing traffic posts, and six of the struck-by deaths involved a violation of that state's "Slow Down and Move Over"

Thus far in 2022, six officers were involved in single-vehicle crashes and preliminary indications are that at least three officers involved in vehicle collisions were found to not have their seat belt fastened.

## Report on the National Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Summit

On July 28, 2022, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in partnership with NHTSA and The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, hosted a first-of-its kind National Traffic Safety Summit.

This event addressed the most pressing issues in roadway safety for law enforcement and featured an array of experts from several different agencies and organizations. For more on this Summit and its key safety recommendations, review the report here <https://nleomf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NLEOMF-2022-Traffic-Safety-Summit-Report.pdf>

## SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:



**Use a right side (Passenger) approach on traffic stops**



**Wear your seat belt**



**Consider an enhanced personal lighting device to be more visible**



## OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



### DEPUTY MICHAEL HARTWICK

E.O.W. 9/22/22

Pinellas County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Struck and killed while on a traffic post at a Construction Zone



### DEPUTY LORENZO BUSTOS

E.O.W. 7/29/2022

Smith County (TX) Sheriff's Office

Struck and killed while completing a DUI arrest



### SERGEANT JEAN-HAROLD ASTREE

E.O.W. 7/28/22

Fairburn (GA) Police Department

Killed in a collision with a truck

