

NHTSA 2023 FIRST 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 first quarter of 2023, traffic-related line of duty deaths decreased notably compared to the same period in 2022. In the first three months of 2023, there were 6 reported line-of-duty deaths that involved officers being killed in vehicle crashes or struck by vehicles. Compared to 2022, when there were 19 traffic related fatalities in the first quarter, this represents a 68% drop in fatal crashes. As 2023 began, there were no fatal cases in the entire month of January, compared to nine fatal incidents in January of 2022. A dramatic decline.

Automobile and Struck-by Crashes Down

While 2022 started out with tragedy, 2023 has begun with encouraging numbers across the board and in every category of crash. In the first three months of 2022, there were 11 fatal automobile crashes, compared to four in 2023. This represents a 64% decrease. There were seven struck-by fatalities in the first three months of 2022 compared to just one in 2023. This reduction represents an 86% drop in struck-by crashes. This is encouraging news, as the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and its traffic safety partners focused intensively on the issue of struck-by crashes following a tremendous spike in 2021.

Motorcycle Crashes Remain the Same

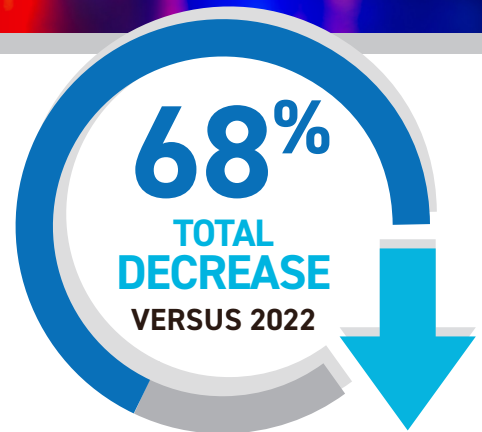
The only category that did not show a reduction was that of motorcycle crashes. In the first quarter of 2022 and 2023, there was one law enforcement motorcycle fatality. The case in 2023, involved an officer crashing after being hit by falling debris while riding on his motorcycle

First Quarter Data Comparison

In the first quarter of 2022, 7 of the 19 crashes were confirmed to have involved an impaired driver, compared to none in 2023, a 100% decline. Also, in the first three months of 2022, there had been two cases of confirmed distraction leading to the fatal crash, compared to just one in 2023.

Currently there is no confirmed data on seat belt use in the first quarter of 2023, however, during the same period in 2022, it was confirmed that of the 11 vehicle crashes, five officers were not belted.

Thus far in 2023, law enforcement traffic related fatalities occurred across five different states, with the state of Oklahoma having two separate cases. When looking at crash types, the number of single-vehicle crashes, a subcategory of vehicular crashes, was also down. There were two single-vehicle crashes in the first quarter of 2022 compared to none in 2023.



AUTOMOBILE

↓ 64%

1ST QTR
2022 = **11**

1ST QTR
2023 = **4**



STRUCK-BY

↓ 86%

1ST QTR
2022 = **7**

1ST QTR
2023 = **1**



MOTORCYCLE

NO CHANGE

1ST QTR
2022 = **1**

1ST QTR
2023 = **1**

TOTAL ↓ 68%

1ST QTR
2022 = **19**

1ST QTR
2023 = **6**

Upcoming Traffic Safety Summit

Beginning on May 8th through the 10th, the Eastern Transportation Coalition, in conjunction with the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, NHTSA and the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, will host a second traffic safety summit in Linthicum, Maryland. This event is for all first responders and highway workers and will feature presentations from fire, police, towing and recovery, prosecutors, state highway departments and more. This summit is a follow up to the July 28, 2022, summit that was hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. To register for the May event in-person or virtually please visit [Move Over/Distracted Driving Conference: May 8 - 10 - The Eastern Transportation Coalition \(tetcoalition.org\)](#)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:



When expediting, be sure to clear each intersection



Wear your seat belt!



Make sure your vehicles have rear reflective markings.



OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



K-9 OFFICER JAMES MUHLBAUER AND K-9 CHAMP

E.O.W. 2/12/2023

Kansas City, MO, Police Department

Officer Muhlbauer and Champ were killed when they were struck by a speeding driver who ran a red light.



MASTER TROOPER JAMES R. BAILEY

E.O.W. 3/3/2023

Indiana State Police

Struck and killed while deploying tire deflation devices to end a pursuit.



PATROLMAN JOSEPH BARLOW

E.O.W. 3/20/2023

McAlester OK, Police Department

Killed in a collision while escorting a funeral procession.

