

# NHTSA 2023 SECOND 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.

**The second quarter of 2023 continued its encouraging pace in terms of traffic related law enforcement deaths, which are down by 63% compared to the first two quarters of 2022.** During the months of April, May and June 2023, there were a total of five fatal cases, compared to 12 fatalities over the same three-month period in 2022.

Through the second quarter of 2023, there have been 11 fatal crashes compared to 30 fatal cases through the second quarter of 2022. Crashes are down in all three categories, with the number of struck-by crashes decreasing dramatically.

## Automobile and Struck-by Crashes Down

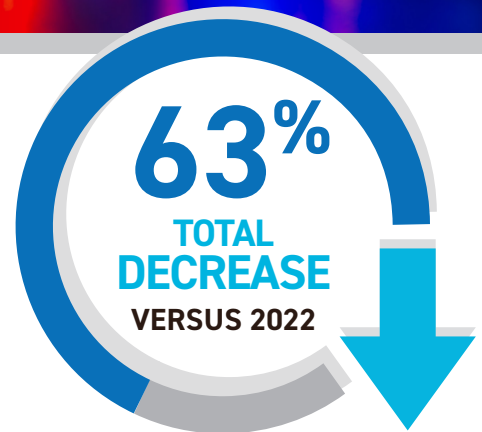
2023 started out with lower numbers of fatalities in contrast to 2022, particularly in the categories of automobile crashes and struck-by crashes and that good news has continued. In the first two quarters of 2023, there have been nine fatal automobile crashes, compared to 18 in 2022, a 50% reduction.

Similarly in the category of Struck-by crashes, there has been an 82% reduction in the first two quarters of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. There have been two struck-by fatalities in 2023, compared to 11 in 2022. Sadly, the two struck-by cases in 2023, are both Troopers from the same agency, who were struck and killed in separate incidents while allegedly deploying tire deflation devices. The use of these tools is currently being examined by the NLEOMF research team to gather data on the circumstances involving ten years of fatal cases.

We continue to be encouraged by the drop in struck-by cases and have been focusing on their prevention through our messaging, and by working with a broad coalition of partners to improve roadway safety for first responders including towing and recovery personnel. In May of 2023, the Eastern Transportation Coalition hosted a three-day traffic safety summit, which followed the Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Summit the NLEOMF hosted in July of 2022. There is still work to be done, but the national struck-by fatality numbers for first responders and towing and recovery personnel are down by 39% compared to the first two quarters of 2022.

## 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. There were no motorcycle fatalities in the second quarter of either 2022 or 2023.



### AUTOMOBILE

↓ 50%

2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2022 = **18**    2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2023 = **9**



### STRUCK-BY

↓ 82%

2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2022 = **11**    2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2023 = **2**



### MOTORCYCLE

NO CHANGE

2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2022 = **1**    2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2023 = **1**

**TOTAL** ↓ **63%**  
2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2022 = **30**    2<sup>ND</sup> QTR 2023 = **11**

## Second Quarter Data Comparison

In the second quarter of 2022, nine of the 30 crashes were confirmed to have involved an impaired driver, while there is no current data on impairment in any of the 2023 cases. Also, in the first two quarters of 2022, there had been three 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 through the second quarter of 2023, however, during the same period in 2022, it was confirmed that of the 18 vehicle crashes, eight officers were not belted.

Thus far in 2023, law enforcement traffic related fatalities occurred across eight different states, with the states of Florida, Oklahoma and Indiana having two cases each. 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 through the second quarter of 2022 compared to one in 2023.

## Second Quarter Webinar

On July 13, 2023, the NLEOMF Officer Safety and Wellness Team hosted a webinar to review the second quarter numbers and featured a presentation from Captain Peter Cimbal from the Chesterfield, Virginia, Police Department. Captain Cimbal recounted the steps his agency has taken to increase traffic safety for the officers of the Chesterfield Police Department, as he discussed changes to lighting schemes on patrol cars and enhanced drivers' training. That webinar can be viewed by visiting our NHTSA page on the NLEOMF website, [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org).

## SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:



**Be sure to secure your patrol vehicle. Multiple unattended police vehicles have been stolen in 2023.**



**Always wear your seat belt!**



**Be sure to adequately coordinate the deployment of tire deflation devices.**



## OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



### SERGEANT NICHOLAS PEPPER

*E.O.W. April 3, 2023*

Larouche (LA) Parrish Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Pepper was killed when his police car was intentionally rammed by a fleeing suspect.



### CHIEF OF POLICE ANTONY RICKERSON

*E.O.W. June 12, 2023*

Jasper (FL) Police Department

Chief Rickerson struck a deer while responding to a call and crashed.



### TROOPER AARON SMITH

*E.O.W. June 28, 2023*

Indiana State Police

Trooper Smith was struck while deploying a tire deflation device.

