

# NHTSA 2023 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 2023, traffic-related line of duty deaths remained relatively low compared to the same period in 2022, despite an uptick in cases.** During the months of July, August and September of 2023, there were fourteen line of duty traffic related deaths. This is higher than the same period in 2022, where there were eight fatal cases. Despite this increase, overall traffic related deaths remain down by 40% compared to 2022.

## Automobile and Struck-by Crashes Down

Vehicle crashes, including single-vehicle crashes, are lower than the same period in 2022. There have been 16 fatal motor vehicle crashes thus far in 2023, compared to 25 in 2022. This represents a 36% reduction in vehicle related fatalities.

The incidence of officers being struck and killed by vehicles continues to remain comparatively low. There are six struck-by cases this year, three of which are connected to the use of tire deflation devices, compared to 13 cases at the same time in 2022, representing a 54% reduction in struck-by crashes. The NLEOMF completed an analysis of ten years of fatalities related to the use of tire deflation devices and published a report on its findings. <https://nleomf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Tire-Deflation-Device-Paper-NLEOMF-9.27.23.pdf> This continuing reduction in struck-by crashes follows an historic high of 21 cases in the same period of 2021.

## Motorcycle Crashes Remain the Same

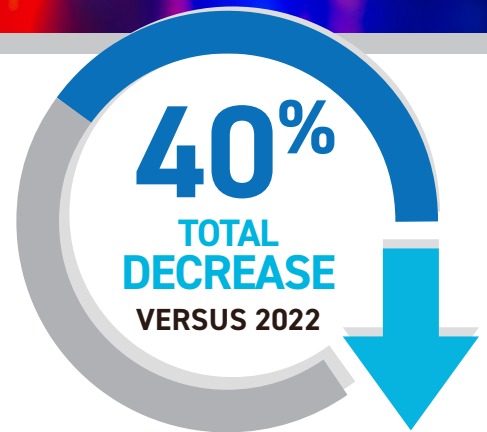
The only category that did not show a reduction was that of motorcycle crashes. Through the three quarters of 2022 there were a total of three motorcycle fatalities and that number is the same through three quarters of 2023.

## Third Quarter Data Comparison

In the third quarter there was a total of 14 fatal traffic related incidents, this is significantly higher than the same quarter in 2022 when there were eight fatal incidents. In the third quarter of 2023, there were seven automobile crashes, three of which involved a collision with a tractor trailer, and two which involved a head-on crash. In the third quarter of 2022 there were four fatal crash incidents. In one of the automobile crashes cases, it was immediately confirmed that an officer was unbelted.

In the third quarter 2023, there was one single-vehicle crash involving an officer responding to a call for service and no single-vehicle crashes in the same period of 2022.

During the third quarter of 2023, there were four struck-by cases, one of which involved the deployment of a tire deflation device. In one case an officer was intentionally run down



### AUTOMOBILE

↓ 36%

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2022 = **25**

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2023 = **16**



### STRUCK-BY

↓ 54%

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2022 = **13**

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2023 = **6**



### MOTORCYCLE

NO CHANGE

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

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2023 = **3**

TOTAL ↓ 40%

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2022 = **41**

3<sup>RD</sup> QTR  
2023 = **25**

by a fleeing suspect, in another case, an officer was attempting to remove an animal from the roadway and in the fourth case an officer who was struck in 2022, while running with a group in his academy class, succumbed to his injuries and died in 2023.

There were two motorcycle fatalities in the third quarter of 2023 compared to none in the same period of 2022. One case involved an officer losing control and crashing while responding to a call for service and in the second case, which is a hit and run under investigation, involved an officer heading to work on his take-home motorcycle and being fatally struck on the highway.

Thus far in 2023, law enforcement traffic related fatalities have occurred across 17 different states and Puerto Rico. When looking at crash types, the number of single-vehicle crashes, a subcategory of vehicular crashes, continued to remain lower than in previous years.

## Tire Deflation Report

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund began looking at the troubling numbers of deaths associated with the deployment of Tire Deflation Devices (TDD's). This examination led to a review of ten years of fatal cases involving the use of these devices. That report was completed in September and is available on our website. <https://nleomf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Tire-Deflation-Device-Paper-NLEOMF-9.27.23.pdf>.

A new police safety video, telling the story of a Robbinsville, New Jersey officer who was struck and injured by a suspected impaired driver will be available shortly. These videos are excellent quick training videos that tell a tale of caution for other officers about roadway safety and can be used in training environments or at roll calls. <https://nleomf.org/officer-safety-and-wellness/NHTSA/officer-safety-videos/>

## SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:



**Do not use tire deflation devices unless trained to do so**



**Wear your seat belt**

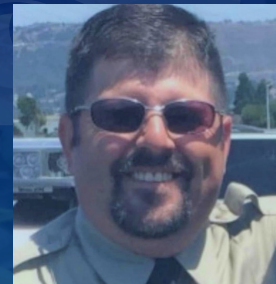


**When you are out of your car on the roadway, put on your reflective vest.**



# OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



**POLICE OFFICER  
ANTHONY FRANCONI**

E.O.W. 8/25/2023

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Police

Officer Francone was killed as he attempted to end a pursuit by deploying spike strips.



**OFFICER ROBERT GARTEN**

E.O.W. 9/6/2023

Hartford, Connecticut Police Department

Officer Garten was killed in a crash while expediting to a call for service.



**OFFICER DARRIN MCMICHAEL**

E.O.W. 9/21/2023

Arlington, Texas Police Department

Officer McMichael was killed in a crash on his police motor while on his way to the station.

