NHTSA 2026
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.

During the second quarter of 2026, traffic-related line of duty deaths increased dramatically compared to the same time in 2025. Through the first and second quarters of 2026, the overall number of fatalities rose to 27 deaths, which is 93% higher than the 14 deaths over the same period in 2025.

Traffic related fatalities have risen markedly in every category except motorcycle crashes. Through the second quarter of 2025, there were three motorcycle crashes, and in the same period of 2026 there have been three.

Fatal Law Enforcement Crashes up by 93% in Second Quarter of 2026!

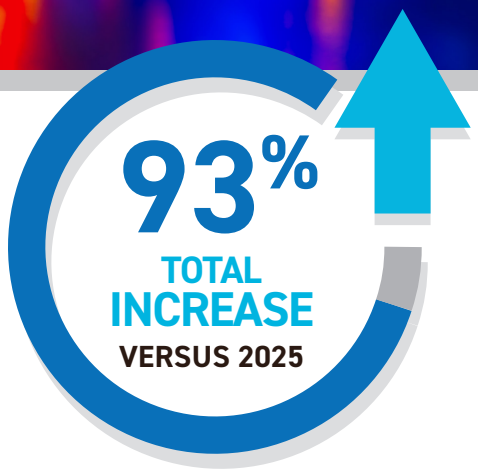
In comparison with the second quarter of 2025, the second quarter of 2026 saw a serious increase in fatal automobile collisions and in single-vehicle crashes. So far this year, there have been 17 fatal vehicle collision crashes, three of which were single-vehicle crashes compared to 5 fatal vehicle collisions and no single vehicle crashes in 2025.

This represents a 240% increase in fatal law enforcement vehicle collisions and a rise in single-vehicle crashes. In the first six months of 2026, offices were involved in five head-on crashes that were not their fault. In one instance a trooper was killed by an allegedly impaired three-time convicted DUI driver.

The number of struck-by crashes also increased during the first six months of 2026. During the same period in 2025, there were five fatal struck-by crashes compared to seven in 2026. This represents a 40% increase in struck-by crashes in 2026. The most common circumstance in 2026 struck-by crashes was while law enforcement officers were assisting motorists or conducting traffic stops.

There were three fatal motorcycle crashes in the second quarter of 2026, compared to three in 2025. Motorcycle officers escorting VIPs or funerals are at greater risk, as this is one of the most common scenarios for a motorcycle crash.

In the first six months of 2026, NHTSA Region 6 (Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) and NHTSA Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee) led the nation, with 11 law enforcement traffic related fatalities, each. The states of North Carolina and Texas each have suffered four traffic-related fatalities in 2026.



AUTOMOBILE

240%

2ND QTR 2025 = 5

2ND QTR 2026 = 17

STRUCK-BY

40%

2ND QTR 2025 = 5

2ND QTR 2026 = 7

MOTORCYCLE

NO CHANGE

2ND QTR 2025 = 3

2ND QTR 2026 = 3

TOTAL 93%

2ND QTR 2025 = 14

2ND QTR 2026 = 27

Some preliminary analysis of the 2026 fatalities has revealed that in eight of the crash cases, the officers were on patrol when their crash occurred, while three crashes involved officers responding with lights and sirens to a priority call for service, and three officers were killed as they diverted or directed traffic.

Nine of the fatal cases in 2026 appear to involve violations of that state's "Slow Down and Move Over" law. This represents a very large increase when compared to the three "Slow Down and Move Over" cases from the same period in 2025.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Slow your speed and clear intersections

Wear your seat belt and body armor.

Use Traffic Incident Management (TIM) strategies on crash scenes

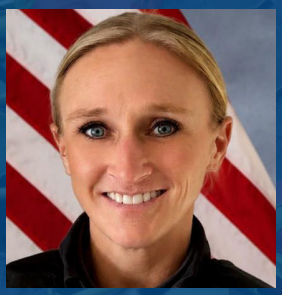
OFFICIAL LINE-OF-DUTY FALLEN HEROES

RESPECT | HONOR | REMEMBER



MASTER TROOPER STIEN DAVIS JR.
E.O.W. 2/22/2026
North Carolina Highway Patrol

Involved in a single-vehicle crash while on patrol.



OFFICER KRISTIN YEAGER
E.O.W. 5/29/2026
Central Berks Regional Police Department (PA)

Killed in a crash responding to a call for assistance.



TROOPER MICHAEL PAHIRA JR.
E.O.W. 6/30/2026
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

Struck and killed by a semi tractor trailer, while conducting a truck inspection.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND
MEMORIAL MUSEUM OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

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