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NEWS

Communications Department • 1121 Spring Lake Drive • Itasca, IL 60143 • Phone 630-775-2160 • Fax 630-775-2310

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Contact: John Ulczycki
(630)775-2160

National Safety Council Estimates 488 People May Die In Labor Day Weekend Vehicle Crashes

Itasca, IL - The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that 488 people will die and 25,400 people may suffer non-fatal injuries in motor vehicle crashes during the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Labor Day weekend is historically a bad weekend for crashes. Over the last six years, there were 9.7% more deaths in crashes during Labor Day weekends than during the weekends immediately before and after Labor Day. This year's estimate covers the 3 ¼ day Labor Day weekend from 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 29, through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 1.

"Our two principal concerns for the motoring public are seat belts and drunk driving," said Alan McMillan, President of the National Safety Council. "As a society, we are making noteworthy strides in wearing seat belts, with nearly 75% of all Americans now wearing seat belts. However, more than 19,000 people who were not wearing seat belts died last year in motor vehicle crashes. About one-half of those people would have survived their crash had they been wearing seat belts. The promising news is that the lives of 380 people involved in crashes this Labor Day weekend will be saved because they will be wearing their seat belts."

"After several years of improvement in the 1990s in reducing drunk driving fatalities, we have now seen three straight years of increases in drunk driving fatalities," McMillan said. "Nearly 18,000 people died in crashes involving drunk drivers last year. Nearly 40 percent of all fatal vehicle crashes involve alcohol. The message is very simple, "If you drink, do not drive."

The National Safety Council, America's Safety and Health Leader for 90 years, is a nongovernmental, nonprofit public service organization with more than 37,500 members representing business and labor organizations, schools, public agencies and private groups.

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