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Summer Starts with High Number of Fatalities on Alaska's Highways

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – Since mid-April, seven deaths have been attributed to motor vehicle collisions on Alaska's roadways. The most recent death occurred the evening of the 17th in Anchorage. Three of the highway fatalities involved motorcyclists, two involved ATVs and two involved rollovers on a highway.

As the days get longer and warmer, motorcyclists come out to share the roads with cars and trucks. When changing lanes, AST encourages all motorists to be vigilant in checking blind spots before merging. For motorcycle riders and ATV drivers, AST advises riders to wear appropriate safety gear, to include helmets. ATVs, in general, are not street-legal vehicles. If you are operating an ATV and must cross a roadway, remember that you do not have the right-of-way. You must cross the road at a 90 degree angle and yield to traffic on the road. State Law also requires off-road vehicles to make a complete stop before crossing. This allows riders to adequately judge the flow of traffic and it also gives drivers on the road a chance to see you.

One of the missions for the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol is to bring the number of highway fatalities and major-injury collisions on Alaska's roadways down to zero through public education and focused high-visibility enforcement.

The Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol is a unique partnership comprised of members of the Division of the Alaska State Troopers, the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and local Law enforcement agencies across the state of Alaska.