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Alaska State Troopers Stay Busy at the End of Summer

(STATEWIDE, Alaska) – Alaska State Troopers kept busy as the summer came to a close over Labor Day weekend. Troopers were involved in a wide variety of serious and time-intensive events over the weekend ranging from a stand-off in Sutton that ended peacefully, search and rescues, to two critical-injury ATV crashes and a fatal car crash, pulling AST's resources in different directions.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Highway Safety Office's Alaska Strategic Traffic Enforcement Partnership provided overtime funds to put extra troopers on the road throughout Alaska, including pulling five investigators from the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. An additional 13 troopers patrolled the Seward Highway and Kenai Peninsula roads – specifically safety corridors on the Seward and Sterling highways. Alaska State Troopers worked approximately 500 hours of overtime on state highways looking for impaired drivers this Labor Day weekend in relation to the ASTEP program. The multi-agency Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol worked almost 300 extra hours looking for drivers practicing dangerous driving behaviors on roads in the Mat-Su Valley during the Palmer State Fair from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7.

During that time, they collectively made 1,441 contacts. The statistics accumulated from traffic enforcement for the fair are as follows:

Of the 904 traffic stops, members issued 429 warnings and numerous citations including:

- 428 for speeding
- 45 for equipment violations
- 96 for no proof of insurance
- 17 for seatbelt violations
- 23 operator's license and other violations
- 25 for expired plates
- 18 for driving violations
- 18 for stop sign violations

Enforcement efforts produced:

- 17 driving under the influence charges, two of which were felony DUIs
- 26 driving while license is either suspended, revoked or cancelled summons to appear

- 8 warrant arrests
- 2 felony arrests
- 15 misdemeanor arrests
- 9 drug offenses
- 2 minor consuming alcohol citations and 1 minor driving after consuming

Members also investigated:

- 1 fatal motor vehicle crash
- 8 damage-only motor vehicle crashes
- 15 motor vehicle crashes involving an injury

Efforts to make Alaska safer will continue even as the temperature gets colder. Public safety is a 24-hours, seven-days a week, 365-days out of the year job for Alaska State Troopers. Motorists can help by practicing safe driving behavior, obeying the speed limit, driving with headlights illuminated, using turn signals, wearing seatbelts and reporting erratic or impaired drivers to your local law enforcement agency or Alaska State Troopers.

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