Motorcycle Crashes Spike in Delaware May 2019

Delaware – The Delaware State Police, Delaware Office of Highway Safety, Delaware Department of Transportation and AAA Mid-Atlantic are working together to notify the public about the recent spike in motorcycle crash fatalities in Delaware. Since January 1st, 2019 there have been six motorcycle fatalities across the state all within the month of May and all under 42 years of age. In all fatal cases listed speed is the number one contributing factor.

"Throughout the year especially during this time when it gets warmer we see more preventable speed-related crashes. It is imperative to know that split second critical decisions are made by motorcyclists that impact every driver on our roads. Through better decisions, education and enforcement we can work together to make a difference to reduce Delaware fatalities." ***Sergeant Richard Bratz, Director of the Delaware State Police Public Information Office***

Motorcycle Fatal and Non-Fatal Crashes from January 1st to May 27, 2019:

32 motorcycle crashes + 5 fatal crashes = 37 crashes

40 motorcycle injuries (not including fatals)

6 motorcycle fatalities

- **Monday, May 27, 2019, 11:18 p.m. – (1 Fatality)** DE-5 south of DE-24 (Oak Orchard area) – A helmeted motorcyclist was reportedly speeding and lost control when trying to pass another vehicle. Alcohol use is pending on the motorcyclist.
- **Monday, May 27, 2019, 12:19 a.m. – (2 Fatalities)** on I-95 southbound south of Jackson Street (Wilmington city area) – A motorcyclist was reportedly speeding and driving recklessly on I-95 southbound in the area and struck a Toyota Sienna, ejecting both the driver and passenger (both helmeted, landing on the shoulder). Alcohol use is pending on the motorcycle driver. Also, the motorcycle driver did not have a valid license.
- **Friday, May 24, 2019, 11:07 p.m. – (1 Fatality)** US-202 at Fairfax Boulevard (Fairfax Area) – A helmeted motorcyclist was reportedly speeding and driving recklessly on US-202 northbound in the area and a 69-year-old driver attempted to turn left, where the motorcycle entered his path. Alcohol use is pending on the motorcyclist.

- **Saturday, May 18, 2019, 8:47 p.m. – (1 Fatality)** US-13 northbound north of Federal School Lane (New Castle area) – A car was attempting to make a U-turn from US-13 southbound to US-13 northbound at a crossover and struck a helmeted motorcyclist. Speed is suspected on part of the motorcyclist and impairment analysis is pending.
- **Sunday, May 5, 2019, 2:06 a.m. – (1 Fatality)** DE-9 at the C&D Canal, (Delaware City area) – This crash involved a 20-year-old motorcyclist who was traveling on the Reedy Point Bridge who crossed the center line, striking a vehicle in the opposite direction and was ejected. Speed and impairment appear to be factors for the motorcyclist.

"Motorcyclists are vulnerable drivers on our roadways. It's up to both riders and motorists to share the road according to Delaware laws that are put into place to ensure that everyone arrives at their destination safely," ***Sarah Cattie, Motorcycle Traffic Safety Program Manager, Delaware Office of Highway Safety***

AAA, OHS, DelDOT and DSP Provide Safety Tips:

One of the most common reasons drivers give for cutting off or pulling out in front of a motorcycle is that they "didn't see it."

Bikers can prevent crashes and injuries by:

- Reducing speeds and/or maintaining safer speeds
- Keeping headlights and marker and taillights on at dusk and in dark or rainy weather
- Staying three to four seconds behind a vehicle they intend to pass, checking oncoming traffic from the left side of the lane, signaling the intention to turn, and then checking for oncoming traffic before passing.
- Checking their rearview mirror and quickly turn their head to ensure the vehicle is a safe distance behind

them when completing a pass.
- Wearing helmets that meet a high protection standard.
- Wearing proper clothing, eyewear and sturdy, closed-toe footwear.

Motorists can help to make the roads safer for motorcyclists by taking some simple precautions:

- Be extra cautious on weekends, when more motorcyclists take to the road.
- Provide motorcyclists adequate room to maneuver. Follow at least three to four seconds behind them.
- Allow extra maneuvering room in areas with potholes, pavement transitions and railroad crossings. Motorcyclists may need to slow down, stop or adjust their lane position.
- Never try to share a lane with a motorcycle. Motorcycles have the same right to lanes as any other vehicle.
- If a motorcycle is nearby, check your mirrors carefully before changing lanes. Motorcycles may be in your blind spots or difficult to see because of their smaller size.

"Road safety is everyone's responsibility, whether driving a car, truck, or motorcycle and whether we are drivers, passengers, or pedestrians, it's important for all of us to be aware of others using our roads and to follow basic safety policies while using our public roads," said ***Ken Grant, Public and Government Affairs Manager for AAA Mid-Atlantic.***

"There are nearly 22,000 motorcycles registered in Delaware and by following the rules of the road – obeying the speed limit, not driving distracted, and not driving under the influence, the risk of being involved in a crash is greatly reduced for anyone operating a motor vehicle and the surrounding motorists," said ***Secretary of Transportation Jennifer Cohan***

Safer motorcycle rides start with respect. Check out the

Office of Highway Safety's Motorcycle Safety website at *ArriveAliveDE.com/Motorcycle-Safety* and find out where you can take the Motorcycle Rider Safety Course, popular routes for riders throughout the state of Delaware, and check the street smarts section that teaches you how to conduct a pre-ride check called T-CLOCS. While you're visiting, check out the video section featuring some of Delaware's riders as they talk about the freedom of owning a bike and why motorcycle safety is so important.

Whether you're an experienced rider or a novice, you could learn something here that could save your ride—and maybe even your life. The motorcycle safety rider quiz takes less than a few minutes. Go to: *ArriveAliveDE.com/Motorcycle-Safety/Rider-Quiz.*

- To keep motorcyclists safe, OHS urges everyone to share the road and be alert. We're reminding motorcyclists to make themselves visible, use DOT-compliant motorcycle helmets, and to always ride sober.
- Make sure you are properly licensed. Check out the DMV Motorcycle Endorsement at: *DE.Gov/services/driver_services/drivers_license/dr_lic_motorcycle.shtml.*
- Look twice, before you proceed. Then look again. Cars are easier to spot than motorcycles.
- When turning left, ensure there is enough time and space for the motorcyclist to clear the roadway before you initiate the left turn.
- Protect yourself with the proper motorcycle safety gear.

The next OHS motorcycle safety awareness community engagement event will be the Hammer Down for Habitat Motorcycle Ride and Community Day on June 8th, 2019. OHS will be on-site at the American Legion in Smyrna beginning at 9 a.m. with games, a selfie station, and information pertaining to respecting your ride. Click on this link to find out

more: https://business.facebook.com/events/2317175238567234/

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 052819 1516

-End-

UPDATE – Victim Succumbs to Injuries Troopers

Investigating Serious Crash I-95 – Wilmington

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police have identified 33 year old Detwine Young of Wilmington, as the pedestrian who was struck in a collision that occurred at approximately 10:08 p.m., Thursday, May 23, 2019 on northbound I-95, approximately .5 miles north of the Concord Pike.

Detwine Young was initially admitted to the Christiana Hospital with serious injuries, however he succumbed to those injuries and was subsequently pronounced deceased on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Click on the following link to view the original release:

https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/05/24/troopers-investigating-serious-crash-i-95-wilmington/

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt. D. Alexander of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8484.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:052819 0945

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Troopers Investigate Fatal Motorcycle Crash – Millsboro

Millsboro, Delaware – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash involving a motorcycle that occurred late last night east of Millsboro.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:18 p.m., Monday, May 27, 2019 on Oak Orchard Road (SR 5) south of John J. Williams Highway (SR 24) east of Millsboro. A 2018 Suzuki motorcycle, operated by a 23-year-old Millsboro man, was traveling northbound on Oak Orchard Road at a high rate of speed. While traveling northbound, the motorcycle passed another vehicle that had been traveling in front of it on Oak Orchard Road. After passing the other vehicle, the operator of the motorcycle lost control and exited the east side of Oak Orchard Road where it struck a sign and continued traveling in a northeasterly direction where it then struck a metal

telephone box followed by a second road sign. The motorcycle overturned and began to tumble along the grassy shoulder of the roadway. While tumbling, the motorcycle broke through a vinyl fence and impacted a standing tree. After striking the tree, it continued to tumble in a northerly direction before coming to a stop on its right side along the east shoulder of the roadway.

The motorcycle driver, who was wearing a helmet, was ejected during the collision and was pronounced dead at the scene. His name is being withheld pending the notification of next of kin.

Oak Orchard Road, in the area of the crash was closed for approximately three hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Released: 052819 0849

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UPDATE- Victim Identified Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash – Newark

Newark – The Delaware State Police have identified 28 year old Lanier Brooks of Newark as the pedestrian who was struck and killed in a crash that occurred at approximately 12:36 a.m., Sunday, May 26, 2019 on eastbound Christiana Rd. (DE Rt. 273) west of Old Baltimore Pike, Newark.

Click on the following link to view the original release:

https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/05/26/troopers-investigating-fatal-pedestrian-crash-newark/

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident are asked to contact Sgt. D. Alexander of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8484.

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Released:052719 1035

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Troopers Investigating Fatal Motorcycle Crash I-95 – Wilmington

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash involving a motorcycle that occurred early Monday morning on I-95 in the area of Jackson Street, Wilmington.

The incident occurred at approximately 12:19 a.m., Monday, May 27, 2019 on southbound I-95 just south of the Jackson St. on-

ramp. A 2016 Toyota Sienna, operated by a 44 year old Middletown man, was traveling I-95 southbound in the right lane, just south of Jackson St. A Suzuki motorcycle, operated by a 41 year old New Castle man, was traveling I-95 southbound at a high rate of speed while weaving in and out of traffic. As the Suzuki changed from the middle lane to the right lane it collided with the rear of the Toyota, causing the Suzuki to lay down onto its side, at which time both the operator and a passenger were separated from the motorcycle. Both the operator and passenger came to rest on the right shoulder, the Toyota came to a controlled stop and remained at the scene.

The male operator of the Suzuki and his passenger, a 39 year old Hollywood, FL woman, were pronounced deceased at the scene. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time. Identification of the victims is pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Toyota along with his three passengers were not injured. Neither impairment nor improper driving are deemed as factors on his behalf.

I-95 southbound was closed for approximately 4 hours while the scene was investigated and cleared.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident are asked to contact Cpl. J. Forester of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8485.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com

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VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Released: 052719 1030

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Troopers Investigating Shots Fired Incident – Bear

Bear – The Delaware State Police are investigating a shots fired incident that occurred early Sunday morning on Bear-Corbitt Rd., in the area of Old S. DuPont Hwy.

On Sunday, May 26, 2019 at approximately 1:56 a.m., Troopers responded to the 2000 block of Bear-Corbitt Rd., Bear, in reference to a report of gunshots. Upon arrival they made contact with an area resident who stated that while inside his home, he heard someone run across his driveway and into his yard. Soon after hearing the noises he heard multiple gunshots being fired from the roadway in front of his house. The subject did not see anyone or any vehicles in the area at the time of the incident.

Upon searching the surrounding area Troopers recovered a total of eleven 9mm shell casings from the roadway in the area of the residence. At this time there have been no reported injuries or damage to property that can be associated with the incident. A search of the area also did not produce any deceased animals.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. Decowski at Troop 2 by calling 302-834-2620.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com

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UPDATE – Victim Identified Troopers Investigating Fatal Motorcycle Crash – Wilmington

Wilmington (19803) – The Delaware State Police have identified 25 year old Shavar Steer of Newark as the operator of a Suzuki GSX motorcycle, who was killed as a result of a crash that occurred at approximately 11:07 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2019 at the intersection of Concord Pike (U.S. 202) and Fairfax Blvd.

Click on the following link to view the original release:

https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/05/25/troopers-investigating-fatal-motorcycle-crash-wilmington-2/

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Aube of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8483

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com

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Released:052619 1242

-End-

Troopers Investigating Fatal

Pedestrian Crash – Newark

Newark – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing to investigate a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that occurred early Sunday morning.

The incident occurred at approximately 12:36 a.m., Sunday, May 26, 2019 on eastbound Christiana Rd. (DE Rt. 273) west of Old Baltimore Pike, Newark. A 2015 Nissan Versa Note, operated by a 21 year old Bear woman was traveling eastbound Christiana Rd., in the right turn lane for Old Baltimore Pike southbound. A 28 year old Newark man who was a pedestrian was also walking on eastbound Christiana Rd. in the turn lane for Old Baltimore Pike southbound. The front right side of the Nissan struck the pedestrian and projected him off the south edge of the road where he came to rest in a grassy area. The Nissan came to a controlled stop and remained at the scene.

The pedestrian victim was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Nissan was not injured. Neither speed nor impairment are deemed as factors on her behalf.

At the time of the collision there was heavy rainfall occurring. The investigation also determined that the victim was wearing a dark colored top and light colored pants, none of which were reflective. He was also not carrying any type of lighting device.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident are asked to contact Sgt. D. Alexander of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8484.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime

stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com

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Released:052619 1245

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DSP S.O.A.R. Searching For

Wanted Sex Offenders

Dover – The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R) is currently looking for the following wanted sex offenders after they either failed to register or re-register their current address. If anyone knows the location of these subjects, they are asked to call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com/


Law Enforcement
Megan's Law Community Notice
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Troopers Investigating Fatal Motorcycle Crash – Wilmington

Wilmington (19803) – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash involving a motorcycle that occurred late Friday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:07 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2019 at the intersection of Concord Pike (U.S. 202) and Fairfax Blvd. A 2012 Kia Sedona operated by a 69 year old Holly Springs, NC man was turning left on to Fairfax Blvd. from southbound Concord Pike, with a solid green light. A 2005 Suzuki GSX, operated by a 25 year old Newark man, was traveling northbound on Concord Pike in the right lane, with a solid green light, reportedly at a high rate of speed. As the two vehicles proceeded through the intersection, the Suzuki struck the right side of the Kia.

Multiple witness accounts described the Suzuki as traveling with several other motorcycles that were being operated recklessly and driving at high rates of speed just prior to the collision occurring.

As a result of the collision the operator of the Suzuki was pronounced deceased at the scene. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time.

The driver of the Kia was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Impairment on his behalf is not being considered as a factor in the collision.

Northbound Concord Pike was closed for approximately 3 hours while the scene was investigated ad cleared.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information

regarding the incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Aube of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8483

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