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Enforcement Blitze Nets Almost 2,000 Speeders

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Enforcement Blitze Nets Almost 2,000 Speeders

Missouri law enforcement officials issued 1,951 speeding citations as part of a six-state speed enforcement blitz conducted throughout the state from July 21 to July 23.

"Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" was an intensified effort to crack down on speeding in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. More than 7,700 speeding tickets were issued in the six states during the three-day enforcement period.

In addition to cracking down on speeding, the effort also resulted in citations for other offenses, such as driving while intoxicated and not wearing seat belts. In Missouri, the results for the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" initiative are as follows:

3,728 Total number of traffic citations issued

316 Total number of seat belt citations issued

1,951 Total number of speed citations issues

2,148 Total number of traffic warnings issued

54 Total DWI arrests and citations

106 Total commercial vehicle citations issued

67 Total commercial vehicle warnings issued

79 Total drug arrests made

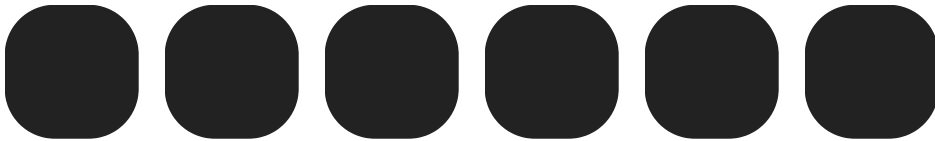
213 Felony arrest/other

Law enforcement officials reported 180 crashes in Missouri during the blitz, 33 of which were speed related. In addition, there were seven fatalities on Missouri highways during the three-day speeding crackdown, with one occurring on the routes included in the enforcement effort. Interstates 70, 44, 55, 35 were the primary routes targeted in the initiative because that's where most of the state's speed-related crashes occur.

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Rules of the Road During the Solar Eclipse

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Rules of the Road During the Solar Eclipse

Are you ready for the Eclipse? MoDOT has some recommendations that Missourians need to follow. Missouri expecting many visitors to view the Aug. 21 solar eclipse

An estimated 1.2 million visitors will come to Missouri for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse. Be prepared for extra congestion, and consider these driving safety tips:

- No parking on the shoulder of highways
- Exit the highway to view and/or photograph the eclipse
- Turn your headlights on (don't rely on auto headlights)
- Don't wear "eclipse glasses" while driving
- Avoid travel during the eclipse if you can
- Make sure your car has a full tank of gas and you have water
- Be prepared for potential cell service outage

Use MoDOT's Traveler Information Map for traffic updates

For more information on the eclipse, visit the State of Missouri website - <https://www.mo.gov/eclipse/>.

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Did You Feel the Earthquake?

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New Madrid, Missouri - An earthquake shook a few places in and around New Madrid around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21, 2017.

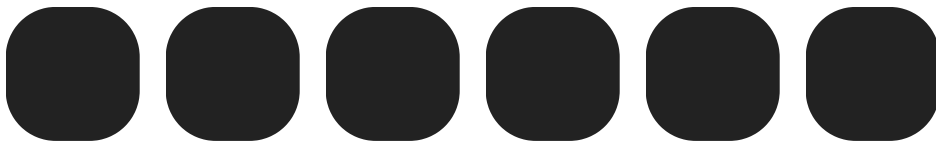
According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 2.9 magnitude quake hit right along the Missouri-Tennessee border less than a half mile from Point Pleasant in New Madrid County.

There are no reports of damage associated with this quake.

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Missouri Joins Five States to Launch Enforcement Blitz Against Speeding

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Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine!

Missouri law enforcement officials have announced they will conduct a speed enforcement blitz throughout the state from July 21-July 23, 2017. "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" is an intensified effort to crack down on speeding. Similar crackdown efforts are occurring across the region in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Up and down the highways and roadways of these states in the country's midsection, officers will be ticketing anyone exceeding the speed limit.

"Speeding translates to death on our roadways. It greatly reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object - or an unexpected curve. Speeding

drivers put themselves, their passengers and other drivers at tremendous risk. All drivers need to be on alert - the posted speed limit is the law. When it comes to speeding, no more warnings and no more excuses - Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine," said Susan DeCourcy, Regional Administrator NHTSA Region 7.

National and Statewide speeding deaths

In 2015, speeding was a contributing factor in 27 percent of all fatal crashes in the U.S. and more than 9,500 lives were lost in such crashes, according to the latest data available from the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

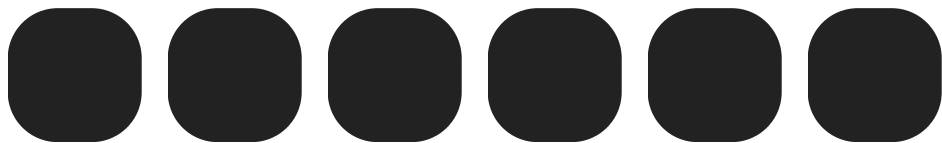
In Missouri during 2015, there were 869 total traffic fatalities with 310 of them (36 percent) speeding related.

"During the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" blitz in Missouri, officers will intensify enforcement of posted speed limits in Missouri. We'll stop and ticket anyone caught speeding - especially on Interstates 70, 44, 55, 35, where most of our speed-related crashes occur," said Colonel Sandra Karsten of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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JULY 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Missouri Expecting Many Visitors to View August 21st Solar Eclipse

MoDOT is preparing for an influx of people traveling on Missouri highways on August 21st. Missourians will have the chance to experience a total solar eclipse mid-afternoon.

The beginning phase of the eclipse will start at approximately 11:45 a.m. when the moon begins to cross over the sun. The time of the total eclipse, when the moon entirely blocks the sun's bright face, will begin at 1:06 p.m. in St. Joseph and travel diagonally across Missouri to Perryville at 1:21 p.m.

After the brief moments of total eclipse, the moon will move off the sun until it completes the process at approximately 2:45 p.m. The only time you can look directly at the eclipse without eye protection is during the time of totality and only if you are located in the path of totality.

Events across the state are planned for this unique astronomical event. An additional 1.2 million people are expected to visit Missouri beginning Aug.18 and leaving most likely by Aug. 22.

Motorists are also advised to expect heavy traffic on Missouri's interstates and all roads inside the area of the total eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21. Extreme congestion is expected once the eclipse passes in the afternoon. Viewers of the eclipse should leave early for their viewing location, stay put and then leave late to avoid the heavy congestion after the total eclipse.

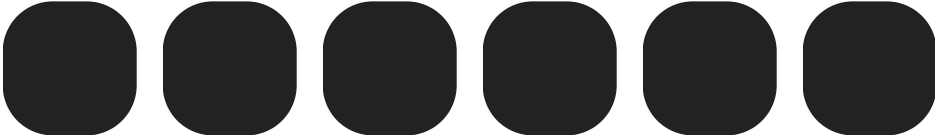
MoDOT has safe driving tips on our website, like: Plan ahead and allow extra travel time to reach your viewing destination. For more safe driving tips click here - <http://www.modot.org/eclipse/>.

For more information on the eclipse, visit the State of Missouri website - <https://www.mo.gov/eclipse/>.



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