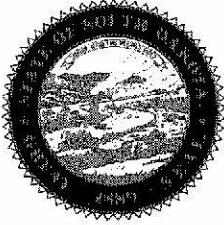


# South Dakota Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Summary





STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

June 2010

I am pleased to present the 2009 South Dakota Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Summary. This publication identifies all types of crash statistics, including alcohol impairment, distracted driving, and a host of other data elements. The statistical information is used to help identify traffic safety problems and to determine effective counter-measures to address those problems.


In 2009, motor vehicle crashes claimed the lives of 131 persons on our public roadways. Injuries impacted 5,704 individuals. Sixty-one deaths occurred in alcohol-related crashes (nearly 47 percent of all crashes). Nearly 28 percent of the alcohol-related crash deaths happened to persons 20 years old or younger! All of these crashes could have been prevented by changing driving habits and behaviors. Drivers must take responsibility and use designated drivers when needed.

Although both the fatality and injury rates are low when compared to our border states, I know we can do better. The number of registered drivers and vehicles continues to increase, creating more activity on our roadways.

We all need to make driving safely a top priority. Each of us in South Dakota can set an example by using safety belts, following speed limits, keeping distractions within the vehicle to a minimum, and encouraging family members and friends to do the same.

South Dakota is a great state in which to live, work, visit, and raise a family. We will continue our safety efforts to make this state a safer place for the citizens and visitors traveling the roadways of South Dakota.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds

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