

## Executive Summary

In this annual report, *Idaho Traffic Crashes 2007*, the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Safety presents descriptive statistics about reportable traffic crashes.

A summary of findings for 2007 are listed below:

- Idaho's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.59 in 2007.
- The number of motor vehicle crashes increased by 9.2 percent to 26,452 in 2007. The decrease in 2006 was due almost entirely to a legislative change in the property damage reporting threshold. The threshold was increased from \$750 in property damage to any one person to \$1,500 property damage to any one person and became effective January 1, 2006.
- The number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes decreased from 267 in 2006 to 252 in 2007, a 6 percent decrease.
- Just over 40 percent of the motor vehicle fatalities were the result of impaired driving. Of the 101 persons killed in impaired driving crashes, 93 percent were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, an impaired ATV driver, or an impaired pedestrian.
- Idaho's observed seat belt use decreased slightly to 78 percent in 2007. While the observed rate was 78 percent, only 35 percent of the motor vehicle occupants killed in crashes were wearing seat belts. If everyone had been wearing seat belts, 57 lives may have been saved.
- Aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 54 percent of the motor vehicle crashes in 2007 and was a factor in 43 percent of the resulting fatalities.
- Youthful drivers, ages 15 to 19, continue to be over-involved in motor vehicle crashes. In 2007, youthful drivers were involved in 2.6 times as many fatal and injury crashes as you would expect them to be and were 3 times as likely as all other drivers to be involved in a fatal and injury crash.
- There were 17 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2007.
- The number of motorcyclists killed in crashes decreased by 23 percent in 2007. There were 29 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2007. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of fatal motorcycle crashes involved just the motorcycle, while just over half (51 percent) of all motorcycle crashes involved just the motorcycle.
- Fatal crashes involving commercial motor vehicles increased by 12 percent in 2007 and the number of injury crashes involving commercial motor vehicles increased by 3 percent. There were 32 people killed and 824 people injured in commercial motor vehicle crashes in 2007.