

COMMUNITYNEWS

ASK A TROOPER

Crash facts: 2012

BY SGT. CURT S. MOWERS
Minnesota State Patrol

Q: I would like to know what the final general crash facts were from 2012, so that when the 2013 facts are sent out, I have an idea of what is going on in comparison to the recent past. Any info you can provide before the 2013 facts come out would be appreciated. Thanks!

A: The 2012 fatality count is the second lowest annual death figure (behind 2011) since 1944, when 356 were killed. These facts are all on the Department of Public Safety’s Office of Traffic Safety website. Minnesota has among the lowest fatal crash rates in the nation.

We had 395 traffic deaths in 2012. These deaths included 116 unbelted motorist deaths, 104 drunk-driving crash victims and 55 motorcyclist deaths. The 395 fatalities included 276 motorists, 55 motorcyclists; 40 pedestrians; nine ATV riders; seven bicyclists; two farm equipment occupants; two commercial bus riders; one snowmobile rider; and three unknown vehicle types.

Of the 395 deaths, 286 (72 percent) occurred in the 80 counties of Greater Minnesota, while 109 deaths (28 percent) occurred in the Twin Cities’ seven-county metro area.

There were 57 billion vehicle miles traveled in Minnesota last year, less than 1 percent higher than the 56.7 billion in 2011. In 2012, there were 29,314 total injuries, of

which 1,268 were severe and life-altering. There were 21,321 fatal and injury crashes — down from 21,996 in 2011; 24,333 in 2008; and 28,648 in 2004. Driver distraction-related crashes resulted in 51 deaths, down from 72 in 2011. Speed-related crashes resulted in 74 deaths — down from 83 in 2011.

Of the 276 vehicle occupants killed, 116 were not buckled up — 54 percent of those not belted were ejected. A decade ago, there were 257 unbelted deaths. Seat belt compliance is at a record high 94 percent. There were two children killed (ages 0-7) and 721 injured — of those killed, one was not properly restrained; of the injured, 32 percent were not restrained.

Drunk-driving crashes resulted in 104 deaths, down from 111 in 2011. Last year, 28,418 motorists were arrested for DWI, a 3 percent decrease from 2011 (29,257) and down from 35,736 in 2008. As mentioned, there were 55 motorcycle rider deaths, up from 42 in 2011. There were 40 teenage deaths (ages 13-19) in 2012, one more than the 39 teen deaths in 2011 — but down 25 percent from the 53 teen deaths five years ago (2008). Teen drivers (16-19) were involved in 34 fatal crashes resulting in 43 deaths.

Also, there were 40 pedestrian deaths in 2012, the same number as in 2011. There were seven bicyclist deaths in 2012, up from five in 2011.

I hope this helps, now you can watch for the 2013 facts.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Retired Boise Cascade electricians, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Wednesday Study Group, 10:30 a.m., Faith United Church of Christ.
- East Koochiching Area Sanitary District Board, 11 a.m., Sanitary District Boardroom, 1412 Highway 71.
- Sunbeams and Girl Guards, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Free At Last, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Forestland Annex, lower level conference room.
- Community Band, 5 p.m., The Dungeon, Backus Community Center.
- International Falls Recreation Commission Board, 5:45 p.m., city council chambers.
- Men’s Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., rigatoni and meatballs.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King’s Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, 7 p.m., Americinn.
- Line Dancing, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Downtowners Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Bone Builders, 10 a.m., Woodland Apartments.
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, 10-10:45 a.m., Rainy Lake Medical Center, clinic campus.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Falls High School Class of 1960 brunch, 10:30 a.m., Lenard’s.
- Storytime, 10:30 a.m., International Falls Public Library.
- MNsure Health Care Connect event, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action, 2232 Second Ave. E.
- Flu Clinic, noon-4 p.m., Koochiching

- County Health Department.
- Ostomy support group, 2:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Medical Center, clinic campus.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 4-8 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Adventure Corps, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- MNsure Health Care Connect event, 4:30-6:30 p.m., KOOTASCA Community Action, 2232 Second Ave. E.
- Weight Watchers, 4:45-5:15 p.m. weigh-in; 5:15 meeting, Zion Lutheran Church.
- Tacos Supper, 5:30 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Falls Trap Club, trap shooting, 5:30 p.m., Moonlight Rock Road.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., pulled pork on buns, baked beans, pretzels, Backus Community Center.
- Beginner’s Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- The Lamplighters, women’s support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse, 407 Fourth St.
- AGE to age History Café, 5:30-7 p.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Icebox Idol Karaoke contest, 7 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- St. Thomas Catholic School-sponsored Bingo, 7 p.m.; Bonanza, 6:45; doors open 5:45, Aquinas Hall (Lic. No. 01336).
- Cribbage, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Fresh Start, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- Exercise, 10-11 a.m., Backus Auditorium gymnasium.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Serenity Sisters, Women’s A.A., noon, Backus, Rational Alternatives, Room 101.
- Elks Lodge Friday Light Meal, 5:30 p.m., marinated roast beef sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Grape Vine Group, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

SATURDAY

- Moose Lodge events — Open, noon; Bingo, 1 p.m.; Chicken cordon bleu Supper (reservations, 283-3615).
- Icebox Days Chili Challenge, Turkey Bowling and Kids Activities, 1-3 p.m., Backus Community Center.
- A.A., 7 p.m., Alano Club.

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

BACKUS KIDS CLUB

Backus Kids Club will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, No School Day. Call Backus Community Center at 285-7225 for information.

RED HATTITUDE KATS

Red Hattitude Kats will gather for a luncheon at 1 p.m. Monday at Lenard’s.

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LOTTERY

SUNDAY’S DAILY 3 4, 4, 5	FRIDAY’S MEGA MILLIONS 8, 28, 36, 37, 57
SUNDAY’S NORTHSTAR CASH 4, 10, 15, 21, 27	MEGA BALL 8
FRIDAY’S GOPHER 5 3, 11, 27, 34, 36	SATURDAY’S POWERBALL 10, 15, 33, 48, 54
SATURDAY’S HOT LOTTO 2, 20, 22, 24, 25	POWERBALL 34
HOT BALL 1	

Icebox Days Chili Challenge

Saturday, January 18
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Call Backus for more information
or visit us on the web

BACKUS Community Center

Chili Tasting
\$6.00 per person

Vote for your favorite chili!
Prizes awarded for 1st and 2nd places!

Kids Activities & TORKEY BOWLING!

Sponsored by
Falls High Student Council & FHS National Honor Society

Backus is fully accessible to persons with disabilities — please call our main office for specific accommodations.

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VFW Post
Members & Guests

Friday & Saturday

January 17 & 18
Music by
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Celebration of Life

CATHERINE L. (STORY) WALKER 80

Catherine died Sunday December 1, 2013 at Rochester Methodist Hospital following surgery complications.

Catherine’s children: Shirley and Mac Simonson, Jean and John Peterman, Kathy and Russ Block, Sherry and Chuck Botzet, Judy and Tadd Whitbeck, Sandy and Robin Hoopman

Join Catherine’s family as they celebrate her life on **Saturday January 18, 2014**
1:00pm to 4:00pm
Ranier Community Building
Ranier, MN