

Media Statement

RE: Increasing speed limits in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO), along with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol are concerned with the safety of all people on Oklahoma roadways. Crashes at higher speeds tend to result in more severe injuries. This is why the OHSO encourages everyone driving on Oklahoma roads to be as safe as possible. Wear your seat belt, put the phone down, and concentrate on the task at hand; driving.

“In 2019, 112 people were killed in Oklahoma in speed-related crashes*. While this is down from 133 people killed in 2018, the best number to see here is zero,” said Cody McDonell, communications manager for the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office.

“According to data from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, speed is the number one contributing factor for fatality crashes in Oklahoma,” said Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lieutenant Chris Arnall. “People need to remember that these posted speed limits are the fastest you’re legally allowed to drive, that doesn’t mean you should always drive that fast.”

Lieutenant Arnall reminds drivers that higher speeds are not always a good idea, especially when it’s raining, or the road conditions are less than perfect.

“Whether it’s 55 or 85; when the roads are hazardous, drivers must ensure they’re driving at a speed that is reasonable and proper for the conditions,” said Arnall.

“The higher the speed, the lower our tolerance for those who break the speed limit. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol and local law enforcement will strictly enforce speed limits throughout the year to make sure everyone is being safe.”

*2019 Highway Safety Crash Facts, 2019 Finalized Data; Oklahoma Highway Safety Office;
https://ohso.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc751/f/2019_s0_quickfacts.pdf