



News Release

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For Immediate Release
May 19, 2014

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National Safety Council Estimates Nearly 400 Fatalities from Crashes this Memorial Day Weekend *Council encourages drivers to use extra caution to keep our roadways safe*

Itasca, IL – The [National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org) today released its estimates of fatalities from traffic crashes for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday weekend, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 23, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 26. The Council estimates **382** traffic fatalities and another **40,900** medically consulted injuries may occur over the traditional summer kick-off weekend from motor vehicle collisions.

“Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer celebrations, but sadly, we know this long holiday weekend will end with too many preventable deaths and injuries,” said Deborah Hersman, NSC president and CEO. “We issue these estimates to draw attention to risks on the roadways and encourage drivers to take extra precautions so needless tragedies can be prevented.”

Studies have shown that safety belts are 45 percent effective in preventing fatalities. It is estimated that **139** lives may be saved Memorial Day Weekend because of people wearing their safety belts.

To ensure a safe Memorial Day celebration, NSC recommends buckling up every trip, every time – even when traveling a short distance. Be sure to also keep these tips in mind before heading out the door:

- Refrain from all cell phone use – both hands-free and handheld – behind the wheel
- Place children in age-appropriate safety seats
- Do not drink and drive as impairment begins with the first drink – if you drink, designate a sober driver or take alternate transportation
- Drive defensively and exercise caution, especially during bad weather

Supplemental Memorial Day Holiday Traffic Fatality Estimate Detail

About the National Safety Council

Founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress, the National Safety Council, [nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org), is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy. NSC advances this mission by partnering with businesses, government agencies, elected officials and the public in areas where we can make the most impact – distracted driving, teen driving, workplace safety, prescription drug overdoses and Safe Communities.

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