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For Immediate Release

Kentucky highway fatalities declined in 2018

Preliminary figures indicate 60 fewer fatalities compared to 2017

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 1, 2019) – Preliminary figures indicate highway fatalities in Kentucky declined in 2018 to 722, down from 782 in 2017. According to the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS), this is the second consecutive year that roadway fatalities have decreased.

KOHS Acting Executive Director Jason Siwula commends Kentuckians for being responsible behind the wheel and choosing to practice safe driving behaviors.

“We are encouraged by the reduction in fatalities, and we thank the traveling public for making choices behind the wheel, like buckling up and driving sober, that prevent the loss of life on Kentucky highways,” said Siwula. “It doesn’t go unnoticed that this year we observed that seat belt usage increased and fatalities decreased.”

According to data from the University of Kentucky Transportation Center, Kentucky’s seat belt usage rate rose from 86.8 percent in 2017 to 89.9 percent in 2018.

“While this achievement demonstrates safety is trending in the right direction, a single fatality is frankly one too many on our roadways,” said Siwula. “We are committed to continuing work with our local, state, federal and private industry highway safety partners until this number is zero.”

The fatality figures will remain preliminary until all highway crash data is collected. A final report will be released in April.

So far in 2019, preliminary numbers indicate there have been 44 roadway fatalities.

Kentucky’s history of highway fatalities:

2000	823
2001	843
2002	915
2003	931

2004	964
2005	985
2006	913
2007	864
2008	826
2009	791
2010	760
2011	721
2012	746
2013	638
2014	672
2015	761
2016	834
2017	782
2018	*preliminary 722

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