

## Motor Vehicle December Report Discloses 1,550 Accidents Were Reported

RALEIGH, N.C. — During December, 84 persons were killed and 692 were injured in traffic accidents on North Carolina streets and highways to bring to 836 the State's total highway death toll for 1947, the Motor Vehicles Department reported today.

The report showed an 18 per cent decrease in highway deaths and a 25 per cent increase in persons injured over December 1946, when 103 persons were killed and 553 were injured in accidents.

Motor vehicle accidents for December totaled 1,550, with 1,039 being property damage, 437 non-fatal, and 74 fatal accidents injured over December, a 64 per cent increase in total accidents, a 64 per cent increase in accidents involving property damage, and an increase of 39 per cent in non-fatal accidents over the same month in 1946, when 1,036 accidents were reported, 633 being property damage, 314 non-fatal, and 89 fatal accidents.

More persons were killed in highway accidents in December than any month during the year, except January, when 98 persons lost their lives in traffic mishaps.

**URBAN ACCIDENTS**  
In cities and towns, 645 accidents were reported in which 15 persons were killed (10 pedestrians) and 185 were injured. This compared with 428 accidents—16 killed and 145 injured in December, 1946.

Wilmington led in fatalities for cities and towns, reporting three

deaths. Goldsboro was second with two. Total accidents in cities and towns increased 51 per cent over December, 1946, and injuries showed a 23 per cent increase.

### RURAL ACCIDENTS

In rural areas, 905 accidents were reported with 69 persons killed and 507 injured, as compared with 608 accidents, 87 killed and 408 injured in December of 1946. These figures show an increase of 49 per cent in accidents for rural areas, a 24 per cent increase in injuries, while fatality figures decreased 18 per cent.

### FATALITIES BY TYPE

During December, 28 persons lost their lives in 21 fatal accidents that involved two or more cars per accident; 27 pedestrians were killed; 22 persons lost their lives when their vehicles ran off the roadway; one was killed in a train collision; one while riding his bicycle, and five in other non-collision accidents.

Of the 27 pedestrians killed, 12 were walking or crossing rural highways; 6 met their deaths when they between intersections in cities and towns; three were children playing in the roads; and six others were killed while coming from behind parked cars, disregarding traffic signals.

In the total number of fatalities for December, nine were children under 14 years of age.

**FATALITIES BY COUNTIES**  
Rockingham County led the

State in traffic deaths for December. Eight persons lost their lives (three were drivers, five passengers), and 11 others were severely injured in three head-on collision accidents. Two of the fatal accidents occurred on curves, with a driver in each accident driving 75 and 60 miles per hour. The third accident was caused by no lights, which resulted in a side-swipe collision on a curve.

Buncombe and Rowan counties were second in fatalities, reporting six fatal accidents with 6 persons killed for each county. In Buncombe, three persons were killed in three fatal accidents when the cars ran off roadway, one was killed in a head-on collision, and two were pedestrians. Two of the accidents were caused by drivers exceeding the speed limit (they were traveling 56 and 70 miles per hour around curves). The two pedestrians were reported drunk. Another accident was caused when the driver applied his brakes on an icy road, causing it to skid into an on-coming vehicle, and the other accident was caused by a drunken driver.

Forsyth and Wayne Counties had four fatal accidents each, with one person killed in each accident.

Guilford County reported three fatal accidents with four persons killed. Burke, Cumberland, Mecklenburg, Wake and New Hanover had three each; and Duplin, Henderson, Sampson, Alexander, Craven and Vance had two each.

Twenty-five other counties had one traffic death each.

A report of the causes of all motor vehicle accidents and deaths for the entire year 1947 will be completed at an early date, the Department reported.



### Town Talk

Mr. and Mrs. George Speight have recently moved here from Johnston, South Carolina. They are making their home at the present with Mr. Speight's parents Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Speight. Miss Mary Louise Ray of

Richmond was the week end guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ray.

Mesdames W. O. Thompson, C. S. Thompson, Sam Thompson, C. H. Speight, and the Rev. W. R. Stevens, Frank Massey, and Pete Garner, were visitors in Durham and Raleigh last Wednesday.



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