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Motor Club Predicts 17 Will Die In Thanksgiving Holiday Wrecks

The N.C. State Motor Club has estimated that 17 persons will die in North Carolina traffic accidents over the Thanksgiving holiday week-end.

Official observance of the holiday will be over a 102-hr. period that lasts from 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 21 through midnight Sunday, November 25. Last year during a similar period 12 deaths occurred.

"There are several reasons why our prediction is higher than last years death toll," Dr. John G.Frazier, III, president of the statewide motor club said. "North Carolina traffic

fatalities continue on an upward trend. Latest figures show an approximate 12% increase over the same period last year", Frazier stated.

"Highway deaths and injuries have, traditionally, been a fairly good indicator of economic conditions. As economic conditions improve, highway deaths and injury numbers increase", Frazier continued.

"Another very important factor contributing to the increase in traffic deaths is higher driving speeds", Frazier pointed out.

"More and more motorists are allowing their driving speed to creep steadily upward and fail to abide by the 55-mph speed limit", Dr. Frazier stated.

"If you want to be in control of your own fate on the highway, slow down," Frazier advised. 'Fast driving removes control from your hands, making it humanly impossible to prevent collisions," he concluded.

All motorists are also urged to use their seat belts. It has been estimated that between 400 and 600 lives could be saved in North Carolina each year if every motorist wore seat belts.

"Thanksgiving should be a time for families to gather and give thanks for their blessings over the past year," Dr. Frazier stated. "Make this a safe and happy Thanksgiving by driving carefully. Slow down, and wear seat belts at all times," he concluded.

Total fatalities reported to date this year now stands at 1,218, an increase of 133 deaths over the same period last year.

CASSEROLE

