



**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE**

LEO P. SCHMITZ • DIRECTOR

**NEWS**

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**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE JOINS FORCES WITH AGENCIES STATEWIDE FOR  
THE 2018 ILLINOIS SPEED AWARENESS DAY CAMPAIGN**

**Downers Grove, Illinois** – On July 25, 2018 Illinois State Police (ISP), law enforcement and public safety officials, and Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti gathered to speak about the importance of the third annual Illinois Speed Awareness Day Campaign.

Governor Bruce Rauner has proclaimed July 25, 2018 as Illinois Speed Awareness Day with the goal of encouraging the public to recognize the importance of speed awareness and driving safely. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, partnered with Families Against Chronic Excessive Speed 4, and supported by AAA, ISP, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Tollway, Illinois Sheriff's Association, Illinois Truck Enforcement Association, Illinois High School and College Driver's Education, and Illinois local, county and state law enforcement agencies and first responders have committed to take a proactive approach to promote safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists through enforcement and education.

In 2016 the total number of crashes in Illinois which involved motor vehicles was 324,274. These crashes resulted in 92,957 people being injured and 1,078 people killed. Speed accounted for 32.2% of all overall crashes, 37.8% of all injury crashes, and 34.2% of all fatal traffic crashes in 2016. These lives can be easily saved by being aware of our speed and understanding how speeding impacts a crash.

**On Interstates, speeding can have the following consequences:**

- The probability of death, disfigurement, or debilitating injury grows with higher speed at impact. Such consequences double for every 10 MPH over 50 MPH.
- When a vehicle crashes it undergoes a rapid change in speed. However the occupants keep moving at the vehicle's previous speed until they are stopped, either by hitting an object or by being restrained by a safety belt or airbag.
- The effectiveness of restraint devices like airbags, safety belts, crumple zones, and side beams decline as impact speed increases.
- 37% of the speed-related crashes result in injuries.
- Speeding extends the distance required to stop a vehicle in emergency situations.
- Crash severity increases with the speed of the vehicle at impact.
- Speeding reduces a driver's ability to navigate safely around curves or objects in the roadway.
- Speeding can lower gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds.

“Motorists who speed put themselves and others at an increased risk of being involved in a crash and possibly of being injured or killed,” stated ISP Director Leo P. Schmitz. “Please remember, we can all do our part to reduce crashes and keep our loved ones safe by being aware of our speed and obeying speed limits at all times,” concluded Director Schmitz.

Let’s all do our part by taking a proactive approach to prevent traffic crashes, fatalities, and to reduce injuries on the roadways by being cognizant of our speed, obeying the speed limit signs AT ALL TIMES, and obeying all traffic laws. If you would like more information about Illinois Speed Awareness Day, please visit [www.illinoisspeedawarenessday.org](http://www.illinoisspeedawarenessday.org).

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