

Fewer Road Fatalities in 2009

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau reports that the road fatality numbers for January through October are significantly lower than previous years, and they can attribute this low number to a variety of factors. The bureau reports that there have been 307 deaths on Iowa's roads in 2009, compared to a five year average of 338 for this same time period.

The Iowa State Patrol, as well as local law enforcement, has targeted their resources to conditions and times of the year that lend themselves to higher accidents. This includes focusing on places with higher traffic volumes and focusing on identifying drunk drivers. Law enforcement can't take all of the credit; Iowans are wearing their seatbelts over 90% of the time, which saves lives.

The Governor's Traffic and Safety Bureau is hoping that these low numbers can continue through two of the heaviest travel holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The bureau and law enforcement continue to encourage all drivers to buckle up, take your time if driving in bad weather, and keep distractions to a minimum.