



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

14-160

Date: Friday, August 29, 2014
District: 8 - Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
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MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY WEEKEND A SAFE ONE!

SAN BERNARDINO – Labor Day weekend is one of the deadliest times for traffic fatalities. The National Safety Council **estimates 405 fatalities** this Labor Day weekend. The Automobile Club of Southern California is predicting that more than 2.48 million Southland residents are expected to take trips this Labor Day weekend, a 1.6 percent increase over last year’s holiday. Nearly 80 percent of those travelers, or 1.98 million, are expected to drive to their destinations, a 1.9 percent increase from last year.

The chart below shows their estimates for previous years and actual fatality numbers.

YEAR	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL
2007	490	508
2008	439	473
2009	404	351
2010	368	390
2011	400	373
2012	405	378

Here are some safe driving tips for Labor Day weekend travelers:

- ***Don't drink and drive.*** Law officials will be in full force focusing attention on impaired drivers.
 - If you do drink, make arrangements for a designated driver or a taxi.
 - Wear your seat belt. It is estimated that 148 people may survive collision this weekend because they will have worn safety belts.
 - Ensure children are properly installed in safety seats appropriate for their age and size.
 - Allow plenty of travel time to avoid frustration and discourage speeding.
 - To prevent a breakdown, a routine check of the engine, radiator and fluids will go a long way. Tires should be well inflated and wiper fluid should be replenished.
 - Refrain from using cell phones or any other electronic device while driving.
 - If you are sleepy, give the wheel to somebody else, head to a rest stop or postpone the driving.
 - Leave early. Take on the highways early Saturday morning or before rush hour on Friday. If you're driving on Labor Day, follow the same rules.
 - Drive alert and exercise extreme caution at all times. Remember, even if you aren't a drinker, chances are good that someone else on the road is. It only takes a second for someone with impaired judgment to veer into your lane on the highway.
 - It will be hot this weekend, so **never leave a person or animal in the car!**
- **Road Trip Tip!** Does your car have an emergency kit? A car emergency kit should include, at a minimum, jumper wires, a tire gauge, a flashlight, a tool kit with wrenches and screwdrivers, duct tape, rags and an emergency stop sign. Add a first-aid kit, a bottle of water, a blanket and some energy bars in case something happens and you're stranded for some time.

Be aware, and stay safe!

Sources:

Victorville Daily Press
 nsc.org; Pacific Safety Center
<http://traveltips.usatoday.com/labor-day-driving-tips-21014.html>