

An Important Message from Dallas Hammit, Deputy Director for Transportation

Resolve to be a safer driver in 2019

On ADOT's website, there's a number posted on the homepage. Have you taken notice of it lately?

It should catch your attention every time you visit our site because it represents the number of traffic fatalities that have occurred throughout Arizona.

The count has been updated weekly throughout the year, and as of right now, it's up to 956.

Those 956 women, men and children should be here to celebrate the holidays with their families. They should be here to ring in the New Year. They should have a future. They didn't need to die...

But in recent years, we've seen traffic fatalities climb in Arizona and nationwide.

ADOT's goal in sharing the number is to make everyone aware that drivers' actions have real-life consequences.

But, as Director John Halikowski said back in April, ADOT can't reverse the rising trend of traffic fatalities alone — the change must begin in the driver's seat.

We know that more than 90 percent of crashes are caused by driver behavior, which is why I'm asking you to really examine your own actions behind the wheel so that we can make 2019 a safer year.

Why not start by making safe driving one of your New Year's resolutions? As I've done in past years, I also encourage you to sign our [Driving Safety Home pledge](#) to kick off the New Year.

Our pledge asks you to set a positive example by making safety a priority every time you travel. It's a promise to yourself, your friends, your family and everyone you share the road with. Signing the pledge means you know that speeding, impairment, distraction and aggressive driving are leading factors in fatal crashes.

If you need more safe-driving tips this holiday season, please know that there are many resources from ADOT. You can visit ADOT's Travel Information site at az511.gov or call 511 to get the latest highway conditions before you get on the road. ADOT's Twitter feed ([@ArizonaDOT](https://twitter.com/ArizonaDOT)) is also an excellent source of information, as is ADOT's free app that sends critical information directly to app users in affected areas — find details at ADOTAlerts.com. And, if you're headed into snowy conditions, be sure to check out azdot.gov/KnowSnow for information on how to prepare.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

