

An Important Message from Dallas Hammit, Deputy Director for Transportation

Safety first in everything we do

As I've often said, my No. 1 goal for ADOT employees is that you all return home safely at the end of each day in the same condition you came to work. This agency does a lot to work toward that goal by promoting safety both on the job and on the road. We offer a variety of resources and training opportunities that I encourage you to utilize.

One big effort on that end kicked off in 2017 after a several-year hiatus — I'm talking about the ADOT Safety Stand Down Day.

Last year's event was the first time since 1999 that all transportation-related divisions got together on a single day to focus on safety. I'm happy to say that we're keeping things rolling by holding the 2018 Safety Stand Down Day on Sept. 19.

This year, roughly 1,700 ADOT employees will gather to learn and share tips and guidelines related to family and workplace safety. Like the last event, the upcoming Stand Down will give us a chance to not only expand our knowledge, but also examine our own habits when it comes to safety.

To all the employees reading this who will not be attending the Stand Down, I want to point you toward some good ADOT-related safety resources.

- The [Driving Safety Home archive](#) is a great place to start — a number of important topics have been covered in this column over the years. While you're on the webpage, you can also find the [Driving Safety Home pledge](#). If you haven't already, I encourage you to print it out, sign it and hang it in your workspace as a reminder of the promise you are making to be a safer driver.
- When it comes to safety in the workplace, the [webpage](#) for ADOT's Safety and Risk Management office contains a lot of useful material — there's even a section containing "toolbox talks" that you can draw from during your group's regular safety meetings.

On a related note, I want to remind you about the recent [Crash Facts report](#). It was released by ADOT in July, and from it, we learn that fatal crashes are trending in the wrong direction — traffic deaths in the state rose for the third straight year in 2017. According to the report, impairment, speeding and reckless driving, and failure to wear a seat belt are leading factors in traffic fatalities. Alcohol, prescription medication or illegal drugs played a role in 43 percent of traffic deaths in Arizona last year.

The statistics are yet another reminder for us to be attentive on the road. At ADOT, we can set the example both at work and with our families. For more information on safe driving, check out [ADOT's Transportation Safety webpage](#) and as always, please share what you learn with your family and loved ones.

