



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILACP Launches Illinois Speed Awareness Day Campaign

SPRINGFIELD – This year’s *Illinois Speed Awareness Day* is set for Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The ILACP’s efforts for *Illinois Speed Awareness Day* are supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and hundreds of law enforcement agencies statewide.

Founded by the ILACP in 2016, *Illinois Speed Awareness Day* is a coordinated statewide effort focused on reducing the deadly consequences of excessive speeding on Illinois roadways. By uniting law enforcement agencies, public agencies, and private stakeholders, the campaign seeks to raise awareness and change driver behavior through education and high-visibility enforcement (HVE).

“Speeding continues to be one of the leading contributors to serious and fatal crashes, making public education and enforcement more important than ever,” said **Kenny Winslow, ILACP Executive Director**. “Every mile per hour matters, and every safe decision behind the wheel can make the difference between life and death.”

Why Dedicate a Day to Speed Awareness?

Speed is one of the leading contributory causes of all types of crashes involving a motor vehicle. Speeding is not limited to exceeding the posted limit for a specific roadway; it also includes driving too fast for weather/road/traffic conditions. National trends suggest more drivers are operating motor vehicles with less regard for speed limits and surrounding traffic conditions. This type of driving behavior and attitude has resulted in high crash numbers, increased injuries, and fatalities. **Speed** also impacts the severity of the crash, type and extent of the injuries, and the number of fatalities.

According to NHTSA FARS data for **Illinois**, between 2023-2024, there were 2,228 fatal crashes. A total of **34.1% (760) of those crashes were speed-related**.

Nationally, during the same time period, more than 80,000 lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. Nearly **23,100 (approximately 29%) of those crashes were speed-related**.

Press Event

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) will launch its ***Illinois Speed Awareness Day*** campaign with a **press event at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (SLEA) at the College of DuPage located at 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Illinois**. This event is open to both the public and the media.

About the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

The ILACP is the professional organization of Chiefs of Police and other leaders of law enforcement and public safety organizations in the State of Illinois. It is Illinois' leading police executive organization. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police envisions empowered law enforcement leaders guided by top-tier training, certification, and advocacy. As a trusted source for executive development and policy, we promote ethical, innovative, and accountable policing that builds lasting public trust and sets the standard for leadership and community partnership.

More Information

For more **information** on the *Illinois Speed Awareness Day* and **resources**, visit <https://www.ilchiefs.org/speed-awareness-day>

Additional **graphics and photos** for media use can be found [here](#).

To request **an interview** prior to the Speed Awareness Day press conference or for additional media inquiries, please contact:

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Speed Fact Sheet

- Speed Awareness Day involves state, county, and local law enforcement across Illinois conducting high visibility public awareness campaigns along with proactive enforcement targeting speed-related violations.
- In 2024, Illinois crashes involving speed accounted for 31.1% of the total crashes, 35.2% of injury crashes and 45.3% of all fatal crashes. (2024 Illinois Crash Facts and Statistics)
- Traffic crashes that result in death due to speeding are higher in the summer months. The highest fatalities occur between June to September. In Illinois for 2024, nearly 34.7% of speed related fatal crashes occurred between June and September. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2024, speeding was involved in 34% of the fatal crashes in construction or maintenance zones in the United States and 33.3% in Illinois. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- In 2024, 423 people died in Illinois in a speed-related traffic crash. More than 80% of those fatalities (337) occurred on a non-Interstate roadway where the posted speed limits were 55 miles per hour or less. Nationally, 11,288 people died in a speed-related traffic crash, and 87.6% of those fatalities (9,890) occurred on non-Interstate roadways. (NHTSA FARS Data)
- NHTSA considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense, or if the responding officer indicated the driver was driving too fast for conditions at the time or was exceeding the posted speed limit.
- According to NHTSA, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph and nearly five times as likely as a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or below.
- Speeding is usually defined as driving in excess of the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions, and can have dangerous consequences including:
 - Reducing a driver's ability to negotiate curves or maneuver around obstacles in the roadway;
 - Extending the distance traveled before a vehicle can stop;
 - Increasing the distance, a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a hazard;
 - Increasing the risk of crashes and injuries because other vehicles and pedestrians may not be able to judge distance accurately.

Young Male involvement in Speeding-Related Crashes

- Young male drivers are disproportionately involved in speed-related fatal crashes. In the 15-20- and 21-24-year age groups they have the highest rate of involvement, with approximately 34% to 39% of those speeding at the time of the crash. (National Safety Council)
- The proportion of female drivers speeding was smaller than male drivers across all age groups. In 2024, at least 34% of male drivers in these age groups who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash compared to 19% for female drivers. (National Safety Council)

Help Save Lives by Obeying Posted Speed Limits

- Our goal is to save lives. Please join us in reminding all drivers to be alert, watch for and obey speed limit signs - especially in school zones, residential neighborhoods and on secondary roads.
- Drivers need to remember there is a reason for posted speed limits. The roadways are a dangerous place, and speed limits are designed to protect all users; drivers, passengers, pedestrians – everyone!
- Please remember, **Speeding Catches Up with You**
- [FARS Encyclopedia](#)
- [Speeding - Publication Topic - CrashStats - NHTSA - DOT](#)
- [Speeding - Injury Facts](#)
- [2024 Illinois Crash Facts](#)