

## Only One Death Over Labor Day in Oregon

**Date:** September 16, 2009

Last year over Labor Day weekend, there were 11 deaths. This year, only one.

Thanks in part to the national [“Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”](#) campaign. This is only the third time since 1970 – nearly 40 years – that a single death occurred over Labor Day weekend, the second-deadliest major holiday weekend in Oregon. Historically, Independence Day is the only holiday with higher fatality rates.

Since 1970, when Oregon’s reporting system began, an average of seven deaths per year have occurred over Labor Day weekend. The most fatalities were in 1978, with 17 killed. Before this year, only in 1999 and 2001 was one death recorded over Labor Day.

The single death this year occurred in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 5, in Grants Pass in Southern Oregon, along Interstate 5. [According to news reports a 25-year-old man died after a single-vehicle rollover](#), in which he was thrown from the vehicle. Later reports show he could have survived if he had been wearing a seat belt. He died several hours later at Three Rivers Hospital in Josephine County.

Usually the worst day for traffic deaths, this year’s Fourth of July celebration in Oregon resulted in only two traffic fatalities – one of the lowest numbers since 1970.

Alcohol is a contributing factor in a majority of holiday traffic deaths. The Oregon Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII, Oregon State Police, Oregon State Sheriff's Association, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Oregon Department of Transportation say driving under the influence is one of America's deadliest crimes, playing a role in 136 Oregon deaths last year. Nationally, during 2008, there were nearly 12,000 highway deaths involving a vehicle operator with a blood alcohol level over .08, the legal limit.

In Oregon and nationwide, the national campaign, "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." was being hailed as a factor in the reduced fatality rate. The campaign, which cracked down on impaired drivers, ran through the end of the Labor Day weekend, ending September 7.

We would like to thank the dedicated law enforcement personnel, and all the good people of Oregon, who made this Labor Day one of the safest in recent memory. This is certainly a reason to celebrate!

As Portland injury attorneys, we’re here when you need us – rain or shine. If you find yourself in an accident situation, contact us for a complimentary copy of our book, *7 Common Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Oregon Accident Case*. This book will help you deal with the legal side of things, without having to get a lawyer involved unnecessarily.

Shulman DuBois LLC hopes that all your holidays are safe ones!