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## STATE POLICE REPORT DECREASE IN TRAFFIC FATALITIES DURING 2006 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EAST LANSING.** The Michigan State Police (MSP) confirmed today that preliminary reports indicate 15 people lost their lives in 13 separate traffic crashes during the 2006 Thanksgiving holiday weekend. In comparison, 19 people died in traffic crashes during the 2005 Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Five of the 15 victims were known to have been restrained by safety belts and alcohol was a known factor in five of the fatal crashes.

"These numbers are preliminary and only reflect those fatalities reported to the Michigan State Police as of noon today," stated Capt. Daniel Atkinson, Commander of the MSP Field Operations Division. "The preliminary numbers show a decrease in fatalities from this same holiday period last year. These decreasing fatality numbers are a positive reinforcement to the hard work and dedication of the many law enforcement officers throughout the state that are dedicated to keeping Michigan a safe place to travel."

The 2006 Thanksgiving holiday weekend ran from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, through midnight on Sunday, November 26, 2006.

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