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### Missouri State Troopers Busy over Holiday

Three traffic fatalities, a drowning, and two electrocutions marred the July 4th holiday in Missouri. All of that happened in the 30-hour counting period maintained by the Highway Patrol. The Patrol had all of its available troopers on the road for those hours.

Patrol spokesman John Hotz says the heaviest travel day was Tuesday, as thousands of people headed for their destinations. (play audio :22 "crashes")

Highway Patrol troopers worked one traffic crash every 15 to 20 minutes on the Fourth of July. And Hotz says troopers got a lot of drunks off the road. (play audio :26 "roadway.")

One of the fatal accidents over the holiday was in northwest Missouri. The State Patrol says 52-year-old Steven Essendrup of Bulverde, Texas, was killed when he lost control of the motorcycle he was driving on Missouri Route 46. The accident occurred at 9:15 Wednesday evening, approximately five miles west of Maryville in Nodaway County.

Many Signals Communications