

# TRAFFIC FAQs



- 1** Traffic fatalities in Texas dropped significantly in 2009, from 3,477 in 2008 to 3,089 in 2009. This represents more than an 11 percent decline in the last year for traffic deaths in Texas.
- 2** Since 2003, the annual number of traffic deaths in Texas has declined by over 19 percent (from 3,821 deaths in 2003 to 3,089 in 2009).
- 3** The last time Texas traffic fatalities were this low was 1993, when the total was 3,037.
- 4** Texas also experienced a significant decline in the number of motorcycle deaths in 2009, from 531 in 2008 to 432 in 2009, a decline of over 19 percent. Texas has been experiencing an increasing number of motorcycle traffic deaths in recent years. We are hopeful that the 2009 decrease in motorcycle traffic deaths will continue in the future.
- 5** Texans are using their seat belts in record numbers, which also contributes to our improved safety results. Approximately 94 percent of Texans are buckling up now every time they drive.
- 6** The 2009 Texas traffic fatality rate of 1.34 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled is at the lowest level since the state began calculating this rate in 1935. The fatality rate measures the number of traffic deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled and provides a way for transportation planners to evaluate statewide progress over time in improving transportation safety.