

Commissioner Warns Public On Traffic Deaths

Department of public safety Commissioner Martin B. Underwood today stressed his concern over the increasing number of traffic fatalities on the highways of the state, and issued a somber warning to all Alaskan drivers.

"At the present rate," Commissioner Underwood said, "highway traffic deaths in the state will exceed last years total of 51. Now with the long Fourth of July holiday just ahead, I urge all Alaskan drivers to be more cautious, more careful, and more courteous toward one another."

Commissioner Underwood stated further that the same conditions are causing acci-

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dents today that caused them a year ago—even ten years ago. They include high speeds, following too close, high speeds, following too close, drinking drivers, and the careless, inconsiderate and reckless motorist.

"The social drinker," he continued, "presents the biggest problem. He has the mistaken conception that just one or two drinks won't affect his driving ability. He is the one who insists upon driving, not realizing the extent of the alcoholic effect on his capabilities to meet emergency situations. Alcohol is not a stimulant. It is a depressant, affecting the central nervous system, removing inhibitions and social restraints. The false 'life' from the effects of alcohol is actually the lowering of mental controls."

"To prevent death, injury, and sorrow resulting from needless traffic accidents, every motorist should drive as though his life was at stake each time he gets behind the wheel—and it is."