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# Missouri Activates Blue Alert System

AUGUST 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Missouri Activates Blue Alert System

Colonel Sandra K. Karsten, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, announces Missouri's Blue Alert System is now operational. Senate Bill 34, signed by Gov. Eric Greitens on July 6, becomes effective on Monday, August 28, and called for the creation of the Blue Alert System in Missouri.

“Blue Alert is an important program that lets every law enforcement officer in the state of Missouri know that the community supports them and has their back,” said Governor Eric Greitens. “Our police officers do dangerous work to protect all of us, and this program will help us ensure that anyone who assaults a law enforcement officer is quickly found and brought to justice.”

According to Section 650.520 RSMo., a Blue Alert can be issued in Missouri if the following criteria are met:

1. A law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; or
2. An officer is missing in connection with official duties; or
3. There is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer; and
4. There is actionable information known about a suspect for a public notification to be helpful to law enforcement; and
5. The law enforcement agency involved requests or approves the alert being issued.

Missouri's Blue Alert System is a cooperative effort that includes the Department of Public Safety, Missouri Department of Transportation, State Emergency Management

Agency, Missouri State Highway Patrol, broadcasters and state law enforcement agencies to quickly get word out to the general public of an attack on a police officer or an imminent threat.

A Blue Alert will work similar to an AMBER Alert and use the same technology. Using television and radio broadcasts through the Emergency Alert System, text messaging, and MoDOT message boards, each Blue Alert will provide the public with a description of the offender, the offender’s vehicle, and license plate number, as available. Cell phone customers should contact their cellular service provider for information on whether Blue Alert text messages will be made available.

Quickly and widely disseminating this information enlists the public’s assistance in identifying and capturing the suspect, and reducing the threat to the general public and law enforcement officers.

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## 3.1 Earthquake Rattles Parts of Southeast Missouri

AUGUST 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### 3.1 Earthquake Rattles Parts of Southeast Missouri

Southeast, Missouri - A magnitude 3.1 earthquake rattled parts of southeast Missouri on Friday, Aug. 18.

The quake happened around 9:18 a.m. Friday about six miles northeast of Portageville, Missouri.

It had a depth of about seven miles.

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## Enforcement Blitze Nets Almost 2,000 Speeders

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Enforcement Blitze Nets Almost 2,000 Speeders

Missouri law enforcement officials issued 1,951 speeding citations as part of a six-state speed enforcement blitz conducted throughout the state from July 21 to July 23.

"Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" was an intensified effort to crack down on speeding in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. More than 7,700 speeding tickets were issued in the six states during the three-day enforcement period.

In addition to cracking down on speeding, the effort also resulted in citations for other offenses, such as driving while intoxicated and not wearing seat belts. In Missouri, the results for the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" initiative are as follows:

3,728 Total number of traffic citations issued

316 Total number of seat belt citations issued

1,951 Total number of speed citations issues

2,148 Total number of traffic warnings issued

54 Total DWI arrests and citations

106 Total commercial vehicle citations issued

67 Total commercial vehicle warnings issued

79 Total drug arrests made

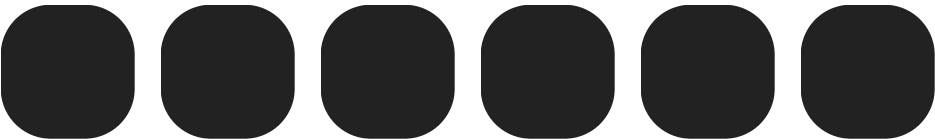
# 213 Felony arrest/other

Law enforcement officials reported 180 crashes in Missouri during the blitz, 33 of which were speed related. In addition, there were seven fatalities on Missouri highways during the three-day speeding crackdown, with one occurring on the routes included in the enforcement effort. Interstates 70, 44, 55, 35 were the primary routes targeted in the initiative because that's where most of the state's speed-related crashes occur.

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# Rules of the Road During the Solar Eclipse

AUGUST 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Rules of the Road During the Solar Eclipse

Are you ready for the Eclipse? MoDOT has some recommendations that Missourians need to follow. Missouri expecting many visitors to view the Aug. 21 solar eclipse

An estimated 1.2 million visitors will come to Missouri for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse. Be prepared for extra congestion, and consider these driving safety tips:

- No parking on the shoulder of highways
- Exit the highway to view and/or photograph the eclipse
- Turn your headlights on (don't rely on auto headlights)
- Don't wear "eclipse glasses" while driving
- Avoid travel during the eclipse if you can
- Make sure your car has a full tank of gas and you have water
- Be prepared for potential cell service outage

Use MoDOT's Traveler Information Map for traffic updates

For more information on the eclipse, visit the State of Missouri website - <https://www.mo.gov/eclipse/>.

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## Did You Feel the Earthquake?

JULY 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Did You Feel the Earthquake?

New Madrid, Missouri - An earthquake shook a few places in and around New Madrid around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21, 2017.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 2.9 magnitude quake hit right along the Missouri-Tennessee border less than a half mile from Point Pleasant in New Madrid County.

There are no reports of damage associated with this quake.

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