



Office of the Chief • Chief John R. Batiste

For Immediate Release

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Government and Media Relations

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Washington State Patrol Water Follies Emphasis Patrols

Benton/Franklin Counties, Wash. – Washington State Patrol troopers will be conducting traffic safety emphasis patrols throughout Water Follies weekend from July 25th through July 27th, 2025. The emphasis patrols will focus on speeding, impaired driving, aggressive driving, distracted driving and seat belt compliance.

WSP Aviation will be working both during the day and at night to provide additional support to ground troopers looking for dangerous drivers. The WSP will be utilizing motorcycle troopers and unmarked patrol cars to conduct emphasis patrols in Benton and Franklin counties throughout the weekend.

Additional troopers are necessary due to the influx of thousands of spectators during the weekend and the congestion issues that generally surround the area of Columbia Park. Motorists should expect troopers to enforce a low tolerance stance on dangerous driving behaviors that put other motorist safety at risk.

Our primary goal is to prevent serious injury and fatality collisions, and reduce dangerous driving. Do not drive while impaired and arrange for a designated driver, taxi or ride service. Ben Franklin Transit will be providing several shuttle bus options with convenient pick up and drop off locations. Driver's should pack their patience with the increased road traffic and drive at safe and legal speeds.

The main entrance to Columbia Park located westbound on SR-240 will be closed from 4:00 pm through 6:00 pm on both Saturday, July 26th and Sunday, July 27th, 2025. During the same time frame, the off ramp from westbound SR-240 to Edison Street will also be closed. These are the same closures the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) have conducted in previous years during Water Follies. The closure of the entrance ramp is to ensure a safe and expeditious exit of vehicles from the Water Follies events during peak traffic times and to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the area.

Vehicles will not be allowed to stop on the shoulders of SR 240 for the purpose of dropping off or picking up spectators, viewing the races, or air shows

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