

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Winter 2007 Motor Vehicle Accidents Date: 3-19-07

From: Lieutenant Kris Sell

Case or Incident #: N/A

Summary:

The weather forecast for Juneau calls for snow to turn to rain around the middle of the week. The break in the weather comes none too soon for the officers of the Juneau Police Department.

JPD officers have responded to a staggering 796 motor vehicle accidents and reports of vehicles in the ditch since it started snowing in mid-November. If each incident takes one officer hour, that is the equivalent of one officer working 19 weeks just on those calls.

If each vehicle involved in an incident sustained only \$500 dollars in damage, Juneau vehicles sustained almost \$400,000 in damage.

The rash of accidents may not be over yet. When the rain falls on the snow and ice this week, roads may become very hazardous again. The theme in the 796 incidents so far this winter is the drivers were often traveling too fast for the road conditions. Many drivers received citations for basic speed, which means he or she drove too fast for conditions. Some drivers were cited for Careless or Negligent Driving.

The Juneau Police Department encourages all drivers to slow down in adverse weather conditions.

Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

***** END OF STATEMENT *****

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