

National Drunk & Drug-Impaired Driving Prevention Month

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and since the holiday season has a higher crash rate than others on average, it is important to echo the message of consciousness of being in a proper state behind the wheel.

Each December, we go out for fun, parties and drinks with family and friends. But we ask you to stop and think for a second about being responsible. The holiday season has a higher accident rate than others on average, it is important to echo the message of consciousness of being in a proper state behind the wheel. According to the National Safety Council, over 40,000 people died in alcohol-related traffic accidents last year. So this year, stay safe during the holidays.

No one says you can't party and let loose for a while. But if you've had too much, get home safely. Call a cab, or better yet, use your ride-sharing app and let the professionals do the driving. That way, you'll be around for the festivities next year.

You'll make a great impression for being the one friend others can trust to drive back home. It is an overall small sacrifice for a night that won't affect your chances to have a great time, so offer yourself up and give your friends a helping hand!



Are You Ready For Winter?

Winter in Minnesota can be described in many ways, but unpredictable isn't one of them.

At some point, it will snow and temperatures will drop below zero. There will be ice on the roads. High winds will raise the risk of being outdoors from hazardous to life-threatening. The best way to avoid the hazards is to stay warm and cozy indoors, but it's tough to stay cooped up for months — and even staying indoors for long periods carries risks. While summer months are the deadliest on Minnesota roads for fatal crashes, wintertime leads to the most crashes and poses its own safety risks and hazards. Safety tips include slow down, don't tailgate, turn headlights on and don't brake while turning. Stock on emergency kit and blankets, check tire treads and wiper blades, and ensure all the lights are working. Always give yourself extra time to get to wherever you are going!



Enforcement Update:

- DWI: Nov 27-30; Dec 5-7; 12-14; 19-21; 26-28; 31, 2024
- DWI (optional): Dec 8-9, 2025—Superbowl
- DWI (optional): March 14-17, 2025—St. Patrick's Day
- Distracted: April 1-30, 2025

- In 2024 through November 24, there were 415 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 18 percent more than at this time last year (353), five more than in 2022 (410).
- Unbelted fatalities (97) are 41 percent more than last year (69), 31 percent more than in 2022 (74).

Let's Move Safely Together

Everyone plays a role in keeping our roadways safe. Responsible and safe behaviors help people arrive home safely.

When driving:

- Stop for people crossing the road
- Look in all directions before turning
- Watch for people walking, day or night
- Be alert and expect to see people walking everywhere
- Slow down for people, slower speeds save lives
- Before passing stopped vehicles, check for people crossing the road

When walking:

- Cross in well-lit areas when possible
- Be alert and look for vehicles before crossing the road
- Stand clear of parked cars and obstacles before crossing
- Look and continue to look for vehicles in all lanes of traffic when crossing the road.



CPS Fact Sheets in Difference Languages

Did you know the updated MN CPS Law can be printed in multiple languages? It is currently available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Somali and Hmong from the [Minnesota Safety Council](#).

[Safe Kids Worldwide](#) has Basic Car Seat Safety sheets available in Spanish, Arabic, Haitian, Hmong, French, German, Korean, Dari, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Mark your 2025 Calendars!

- Apr 30, 2025—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- May 1, 2025—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center
- October 21 & 22, 2025 (T-W) - TZD State Conference -Mystic Lake Center, Prior Lake, MN

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

Sue Johnson, Towards Zero Deaths Coordinator – NW Region

248 125th Ave

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

218-766-5943

