

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Thousands of people are killed and hundreds of thousands more are seriously injured in distracted driving crashes each year. Over the last 5 years, distracted driving has contributed to over 30,000 crashes in Minnesota, with 730 of those resulting in serious injuries and 148 fatalities. Though Minnesota passed new laws against distracted driving in 2019, the number of distracted drivers have been creeping up over the past few years.

Safety issues such as speeding, distracted and impaired driving are all contributing factors to the tens of thousands of people lost in preventable crashes on U.S. roads each year. In April, traffic safety groups observe Distracted Driving Awareness Month to bring attention to the serious threat manual, visual and cognitive distractions pose to the safety of all road users.

Policies and infrastructure that support a Safe System Approach, which takes a holistic look at roadway safety, are vital to creating a safe transportation system for all. By examining speed management, road users, vehicles, roads and post-crash care, individuals and organizations in public and private sectors can come together to address and curb safety issues such as distracted driving.

Together we can drive towards zero deaths on our roadways.

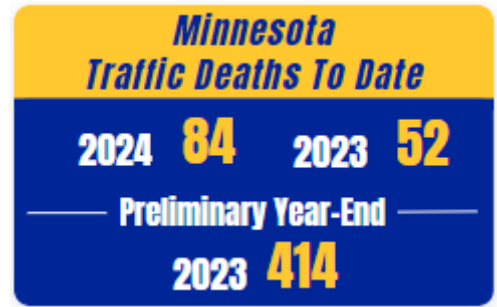
Irishman Shanty Promotes Sober Rides

The Polk County TZD Coalition recognized the Irishman Shanty for the good work on commending, encouraging, and rewarding those that have chosen a sober ride home from their establishment. They place a note on the cars that have been left by their owners due to opting to taking a safe and sober ride home. Sheriff Jim Tadman presented Irishman Shanty, owner Andy Gregg, a certificate of appreciation and commitment to traffic safety for his efforts in keeping our roadways and communities safe!



Enforcement Update:

- Distracted; April 1-30, 2024
- Speed: May 1-Sept 2, 2024 (covers 100 deadliest days)
- DWI (optional) Every Thursday-Saturday, May 9—Sept 2, 2024
- Seat belts and child restraints: May 20-June 2, 2024
- DWI: Aug 16—Sept 2, 2024



Minnesota Tribal Traffic Safety Summit

The Minnesota Tribal Traffic Safety Summit was held on April 3, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Grand Casino Hinkley with every Minnesota tribe being represented. This one-day summit was designed to bring together traffic safety professionals, invested stakeholders, and community members to provide education and raise awareness of crash-related injuries and deaths affecting Minnesota's Tribal communities. The event also aimed to identify strategies that will prevent serious and fatal injury crashes from occurring on Tribal lands and impacting Tribal communities. Six break-out sessions covered topics such as cannabis and traffic safety, funding and resources, human trafficking, pedestrian and vulnerable road users, and tribal injury prevention.



Mark your Calendars!

- April 10, 2024—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- April 23, 2024—NW Regional TZD Conference—Legacy Center in TRF
- May 8, 2024 - Minnesota Bike to School Day
- May 12-18, 2024—National Police Week
- May 19-25—National EMS Week
- July 17, 2024—TZD Traffic Safety Hotdish (register on minnesotatzd.org/events/hotdish)
- Oct 22 & 23, 2024—TZD State Conference—St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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