



NEWS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE PATROL: MEMORIAL DAY ROAD TRIP IS NO VACATION

Troopers Stress Rest and Attention on the Road for Weekend Vacationers

ST. PAUL — In the last three years (2004–2006), 22 people were killed and 865 were injured on Minnesota roads over the Memorial Day weekend. The Minnesota State Patrol urges motorists to heed the following as they take to the road this holiday:

On your way there...

- Buckle up — More than 440 law enforcement agencies are now participating in the “Click It or Ticket” seat belt enforcement effort.
- Pay attention — Memorial Day weekend is a high-traffic period and the on-ramp to the summer driving season. Stay focused on the road, not on sunbathers. Be alert for motorcyclists. Motorcycle ownership is at an all-time high and the weekend is the unofficial start of the riding season.
- Drive at safe speeds — Clear skies and dry roads often lead to higher speeds, and as a result, more violent crashes. The posted speed is the speed limit. Leave enough travel time in advance to avoid the urge to speed to your destination.
- Use a designated driver — If you plan on drinking, plan on a safe and sober ride.
- See orange — While most road construction projects will shut down for the weekend, motorists will encounter detours and traffic restrictions. Motorists must use caution in construction areas and move over a lane for emergency responders on the shoulders of roads. Fines are doubled in the work zone. Call 511 or visit www.511mn.org for construction project information.

On your way back home...

- Drive well-rested — use rest stops and rotate drivers.
- Be patient and attentive.
- Remember: roads will be busy and congested with many other returning vacationers — and possibly as a result — distracted, tired, or impaired drivers.

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Editor’s note: *For weekend interview opportunities about safe Memorial Day travel contact Lt. Mark Peterson, 612-850-6935.*

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

ARMER/911
Program

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal
and
Pipeline Safety