



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DECEMBER DWI CRACKDOWN JAILS 2,577 IMPAIRED DRIVERS; 4,586 CITED FOR BELT VIOLATIONS**

ST. PAUL — A December-long, Minnesota-wide DWI crackdown generated 2,577 DWI arrests and 4,586 seat belt violations. Preliminary arrest totals were reported by 337 of around 400 participating agencies. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) coordinated the effort.

“It’s clear from the results of this DWI campaign too many people continue to make poor decisions about drinking and driving,” says Capt. Matt Langer of the Minnesota State Patrol. “These poor decisions result in death and injury, all of which are preventable if people choose to driver sober which is why we’ll continue our efforts to deter and remove impaired drivers in 2010.”

Enhanced DWI enforcement efforts will continue year-long in the state’s 13 deadliest counties for impaired driving that accounted for more than half of all alcohol-related deaths and serious injuries during 2006–2008: Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Rice, St. Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Wright.

A DWI results in loss of license for at least 90 days and can cost up to \$20,000 when factoring in associated fees and increased insurance rates. Each year in Minnesota up to 200 people are killed in alcohol-related crashes and more than 35,000 are arrested for DWI.

DPS included the seat belt focus to counter unbelted nighttime fatalities, which are especially prevalent in alcohol-related crashes. Each year, 75 percent of impaired drivers killed in alcohol-related crashes are not wearing seat belts.

The Minnesota State Patrol arrested 500 motorists for DWI during the campaign. Among metro agencies, Bloomington Police reported 68 DWI arrests, followed by the police departments of St. Paul (60), Minneapolis (58), Burnsville (43), White Bear Lake (30), and Maplewood (28). In greater Minnesota, Moorhead Police reported 40 DWI arrests followed by the police departments of Duluth (38), Rochester (37), St. Cloud (31), Mankato (27), Owatonna (21) and Beltrami County Sheriff’s Office (20).

The DWI campaign is federally funded and a component of the state’s cornerstone traffic safety program, *Toward Zero Deaths (TZD)*. TZD uses a multidisciplinary approach to focus on four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma care.



**Editor’s Note:** Download DWI arrests by agency —

<https://mndeptpublicsafety.sharefile.com/d-saff554d19594c2bb>

Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement  
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension  
Driver and Vehicle Services  
Emergency Communication Networks  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Minnesota State Patrol  
Office of Communications  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of Traffic Safety  
State Fire Marshal