



# NEWS ADVISORY

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

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 Pipeline Safety

Office of Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## CROW WING COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT HONORED FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY EFFORTS

*DPS Commissioner's Award Recognizes Toward Zero Deaths Enforcement Grant Partners*

**WHAT:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) will present the Commissioner's Award to Crow Wing County Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) enforcement grant partners in recognition of outstanding performance in the 2015 grant year.

Outstanding enforcement and education work by law enforcement agencies in Crow Wing County included seat belt education, mock crashes at area high schools, senior driving safety seminars, alcohol server training and high-visibility enforcement.

The Brainerd Police Department is the lead agency on the TZD enforcement grant, and its partner agencies include:

- Baxter Police Department
- Breezy Point Police Department
- Crosby Police Department
- Crosslake Police Department
- Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office
- Cuyuna Police Department
- Pequot Lakes Police Department

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** Arrowwood Lodge  
6967 Lake Forest Road  
Baxter, MN

**WHO:** Commissioner Mona Dohman, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Donna Berger**, Office of Traffic Safety director  
**Tony Runde**, Brainerd Police Department  
**Gordy Pehrson**, Office of Traffic Safety grant coordinator  
**Kammy Huneke**, Office of Traffic Safety grant coordinator

- WHY:** Grant-funded agencies are nominated based on several criteria, including:
- Continuous coordinated enforcement efforts throughout the year on behaviors that can impact Minnesotans in tragic ways – no seat belt use, distracted driving, drunk driving and speeding.
  - Community awareness and educational activities such as child passenger safety clinics and traffic safety education.
  - Timely and accurate reporting of extra enforcement campaign results.

### **About the Minnesota Department Public Safety**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 11 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

### **About the Office of Traffic Safety**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety [Office of Traffic Safety](#) (DPS-OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. DPS-OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program and for the child seats for needy families program.

DPS-OTS is an anchoring partner of the state's [Toward Zero Deaths \(TZD\)](#) traffic safety program. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma response.

### **Recent DPS-OTS Activity and Statistics**

- More than [30 Minnesota organizations](#) in April joined the Department of Public Safety and statewide law enforcement in calling for employees and all drivers to choose safety over texting and to eliminate distracted driving.
- Police officers, sheriff deputies and state patrol troopers participated in the April extra enforcement distracted driving campaign, handing out 972 citations to drivers for texting while driving. That's up from 909 citations during last year's campaign.
- "[Locked Up: A DWI Booking](#)," gives you an inside look at the DWI booking process. Being arrested for a DWI involves more than just getting a ticket.

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