



“Designate O’Driver” This St. Patrick’s Day

Enjoy a parade, celebrate your heritage and if you plan to drink, don’t forget to **Designate O’Driver** before heading out this St. Patrick’s Day.

Impairment is impairment. If you feel different, you drive different — whether it’s from alcohol, cold medicine, a prescription, fatigue, or any other drug. Stay safe, follow these tips and share with others:

- Decide whether you’ll drink or drive — you can’t do both.
- If you’re planning on drinking, now is the time to arrange your ride home.
- When you head out, leave your keys at home, or give them to your sober driver.
- Look up a local taxi company, Uber or Lyft and save their number in your phone.
- Have a backup plan just in case.
- Take advantage of local of buses, light rail or Northstar.
- And **always buckle up!**



For additional impaired driving resources see the [Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety](https://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org) website or contact Lisa Kons at 651-228-7330; lisa.kons@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.

Teens Toward Zero Deaths Conference

Registration is open NOW. Please have students register by March 19, 2022!

Great News!

The Thief River Falls Lincoln High School Key Club Teen TZD has partnered with the Goodridge High School and are now working together as the Pennington County Teen TZD. This past fall, the two schools decided to form one Teens Toward Zero Deaths program and their first event was the mock crash that was held in September. They will combine efforts to host this years Teen TZD conference in Thief River Falls.

If you have not attended a Teens Toward Zero Deaths Conference in the past, this is a great year to join them. The conference is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about career choices, career training, and job opportunities. For seniors, this means possible training and employment this spring/summer.

The sessions are also a great learning opportunity. Attendees will learn about road construction, safety measures, and design processes. Also, new this year, multiple sessions support mental health. H.O.P.E. Coalition is joining us this year. Together, we all have a goal of working towards zero deaths across our region.

To register and for more info, go to <https://www.smores.com/4rtmv-teens-toward-zero-deaths>

Enforcement Update:

- DWI: (optional): March 12 and/or 17, 2022 –St. Patrick’s Day celebrations
- Distracted: April 1-30, 2022
- DWI (optional): Every Thurs-Sun, May 12-Sept 5, 2022
- Seat belts and child restraints: May 23– June 5, 2022
- Speed: July 1-31, 2022
- DWI: Aug 19-Sept 5, 2022
- Move Over (optional): Aug 31, 2022
- Seat belts and child restraints: Sept 18-24, 2022

FAST FACTS:

- Distracted driving causes over 3,000 deaths per year.
- Distracted driving causes over 280,000 injuries per year.
- An alarming 11 teenagers are killed while texting and driving every day!

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month - What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,142 lives in 2019. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America’s roads safe. NHTSA broadly defines driver distraction as **anything** that can take visual, manual or cognitive resources away from the driving task.

What can you do to educate teens, parents, educators, and employers about the risks of distracted driving?



Mark your Calendars!

- The Pennington County Teens TZD Conference—March 29, 2022 in Thief River Falls
- NW Regional Workshop—April 26, 2022 @ Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls
- NW Regional Steering Committee meeting—June 15, 2022 at 1:00-2:30pm
- TZD State Conference —October 12-13, 2022 (W-TH), River’s Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
November 14-15, 2023 (T-W), Mayo Civic Center, Rochester

TrafficTrivia:

Question: What make and model was the first Minnesota State Patrol vehicle?

Answer: Henry Ford’s model A was the standard patrol car in 1930.