

May is National Bicycle Safety Month

Every day, countless individuals of all ages bicycle along America's sidewalks and streets. This form of transportation is good for the environment, good for physical health, and it's cheaper than owning and operating a vehicle.

This May, NHTSA wants our community to protect its bicyclists by being responsible and conscientious motorists. We also want our bicyclists to practice smart riding habits by riding safely and always wearing a helmet.

It's important to remember that, while driving and riding bikes are privileges, arriving safely to your destination is a right:

In 2020, there were 938 bicyclists killed - a 9% increase from 2019 - and an estimated 38,886 injured in traffic crashes in the United States.

Bike and Walk to School Day

Spring is finally in the air and the students from Franklin Middle School, Challenger Elementary, and St. Bernard's School took full advantage of the beautiful weather and biked to school on May 3rd as part of Bike and Walk to School Day. Local children were encouraged last week to channel their energy into activities that can provide health and wellness benefits. Members of BikeTRF, along with local schools, Toward Zero Deaths, and volunteers participated in the event. Children are reminded to wear helmets, use sidewalks and streets safely, to look both ways and cross streets at marked crossings. The activity is designed to promote healthful activities and is a great opportunity to teach children important safety facts.



Enforcement Update:

- DWI (optional): Every Thursday-Saturday, May 11-Sept 2, 2023
- Seatbelts and child restraints: May 22-June 4, 2023
- Speed: July 1-31, 2023
- DWI: Aug 18-Sept 4, 2023
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Weekly Traffic Fatality Update

- Through May 7th, there were 76 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 22% less than there were at this time last year and 16% less than any of the previous 5 years.
- Speed-related deaths are 33% less than at this time last year.
- Alcohol-related deaths are 56% lower than they were at this time last year.

Toward Zero Deaths NW Regional Workshop

The workshop was held on April 25th at the Legacy Center in Thief River Falls with 72 traffic safety partners attending and representing all the E's (Enforcement, Education, EMS, Engineering, and Everyone) and 11 exhibitors. This year recognizes TZD's 20 years of saving lives. Since TZD was initiated in 2003, there has been a 33% decrease in fatalities on our roadways.

The full agenda included an overview of the past year's outreach efforts, regional and state crash data, an impact speaker, motivational speaker, and a roundtable discussion of traffic safety and how to continue to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our Minnesota roads.



Teen TZD Conference

The Teen TZD held their annual conference on April 26, 2023 in Thief River Falls. Over 200 students, speakers, educators, and community members attended. Impact speaker, Dr. Paula Henry spoke on her daughter's addiction along with speakers on mental health and grief. The students were offered over 15 educational sessions to attend that ranged from traffic safety, engineering, and EMS to sex trafficking, unhealthy relationships, self-defense, and other great topics. They continue to invite schools throughout the area to attend.



Mark your Calendars!

2023

- NW Region TZD Steering Committee Teams Meeting –September 9, 2023 @ Bemidji MnDOT Headquarters (in-person only) from 10:0-12:00pm.
- TZD State Conference - November 14-15, 2023 (T-W), Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
- NW Region TZD Workshop—April 24, 2023, Legacy Center, Thief River Falls (**Tentative**)

Trivia

Question: What is the largest lake completely inside Minnesota?

Answer:
Red Lake



Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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