

Stop For School Buses

It is hard to believe, but summer is coming to an end for students across the state. With schools welcoming back students, Minnesota school buses will make about 10,000 trips each day. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a school bus is one of the safest vehicles on the road for students, but we all need to work together to ensure that everyone makes it home safely.

Stop for School Buses: It's the Law!

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.



Motorists:

- On undivided roads, motorists traveling both directions must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and an extended stop arm.
- Traffic traveling the opposite direction on a divided roadway with a separating median such as a cement wall or boulevard is not required to stop.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.

Students:

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

You can do your part by knowing the School Bus Stop-Arm Safety law. And students can do their part by keeping themselves safe outside and inside the school bus. Please share with others to ensure that all our children make it home safely. Together, we can move Minnesota toward zero deaths!

Tri-Valley EMS Training

Drowsy driving staff training was held on August 24, 2024 for Tri-Valley EMS. The Toward Zero Deaths pedal kart was used to demonstrate the dangers of drowsy and distracted driving. Each driver relied on their partner to get them thru the cone course. If they hit a cone (or deer) they had to change drivers.



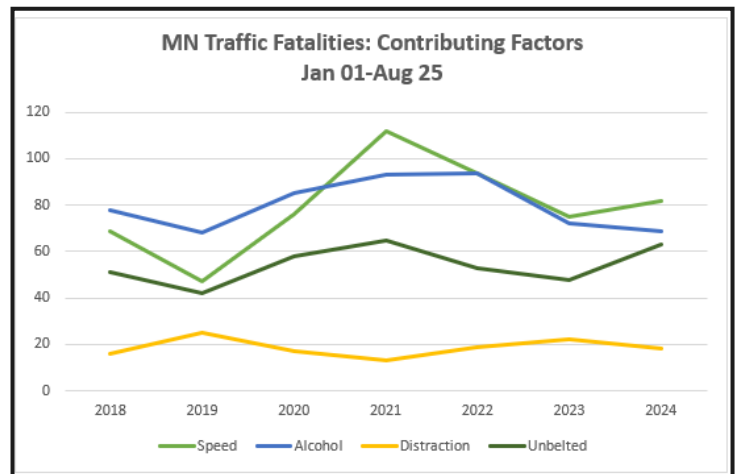
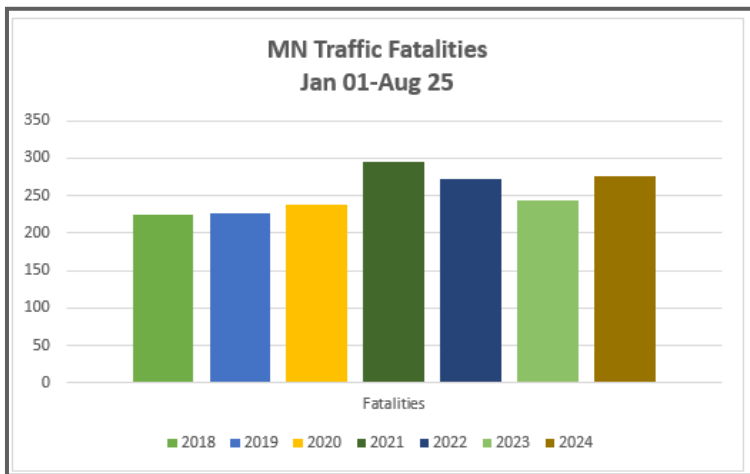
Enforcement Update:

- Seat belts and child restraints: Sept 15-21, 2024
- DWI (optional) Oct 25-26; Oct 31, 2024—Halloween
- DWI (optional) Nov 8-9, 2024—Deer Hunting Opener
- DWI: Nov 27-30; Dec 5-7; 12-14; 19-21; 26-28; 31, 2024



Year-to-Date Traffic Fatality Update

In 2024 through August 25, there were 277 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 14 percent more than at this time last year (244), 2 percent more than in 2022 (272) and 6 percent less than in 2021 (294). Unbelted fatalities (63) are 31 percent more than this time last year (486), 19 percent higher than in 2022 (53), two less than in 2021 (65) and 50 percent higher than in 2019 (42).



Pennington County National Night Out

The TRF Police and Pennington County Sheriff hosted 600+ community folks on August 6, 2024. Toward Zero Deaths team created a roundabout to educate kids and adults how to safety cross while walking or riding bicycles. The Traffic Trivia Wheel was also fun which included questions on pedestrian and bike safety.



Mark your Calendars!

- Oct 22 & 23, 2024—TZD State Conference—St. Cloud River’s Edge Convention Center
- Apr 30, 2025—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- May 1, 2025—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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