

Impact Teen Drivers

This is the 3rd year that we have presented to the Kelliher High School. This year, we stayed consistent with the other schools and only presented to the 10th grade students as the 11th and 12th grade students have already participated in the education. What a great group students! They asked questions and interacted well with the State Patrol. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to share this education with them.



This was the first years at Kittson County High School and are grateful for the opportunity to educate these young folks on the importance of driving safe and being a safe passenger. The whole Impact Teen Drivers program focuses on distracted and reckless driving but also empowers and encourages all the students to make good choices anytime you ride in a car and that includes buckling up, keeping the chaos to a minimum, and being responsible. The decisions that we make could be our last decision. Trooper Dan Berggren and Sue Johnson teamed up to speak with the 29 students, three teachers, and the principal. We are excited to continue the Impact Teen Drivers program with them in the future.



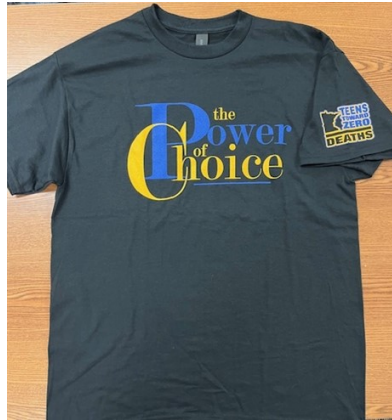
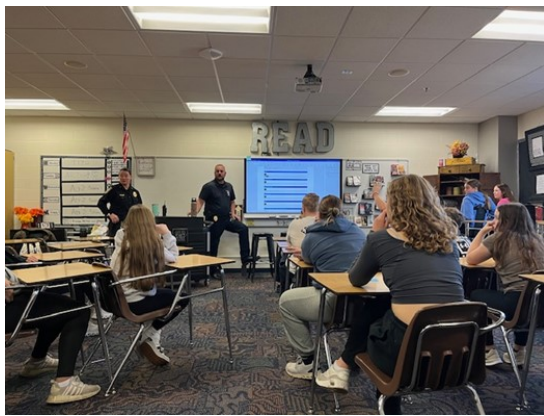
Enforcement Update:

- DWI: Nov 26-30; Dec 4-6; 11-13; 18-20; 25-27; 31, 2025
- DWI (Optional) Dec 7-8, 2026—Super Bowl
- DWI (optional) Mar 17, 2026—St. Patrick's Day
- Distracted: April 1-30, 2026

In 2025, through December 14, there were 361 traffic-related deaths on MN roadways. This is 21% less than this time last year (456). Speed related fatalities (93) are 29% less than last year and the lowest to date since 2019. Bicycle fatalities to date (13) are more than twice as high as last year.

Annual Pre-teen Toward Zero Deaths Workshops

The Teen TZD held their annual pre-teen workshops at Franklin Middle School and Challenger Elementary School. The sessions included pedestrian and bike safety, social media awareness and safety, EMT education, and mental health. The new teen T-shirt was worn as "The Power of Choice" was stressed throughout all the sessions. We are grateful for the Thief River Falls City Police Department, MN State Patrol, Sanford Ambulance, Sanford Behavior Health, Lincoln High School Leaders and Teen TZD students and the teachers and staff at the schools who all work together to make these workshops a success. We are excited to share that we educated approximately 300 students on traffic and health/wellness safety.



Mark your 2025 Calendars

- December—National Drunk & Drug-Impaired Driving Prevention Month
- January 19-26, 2026- National Passenger Safety Week
- Apr 29, 2026—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- April 30, 2026—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

Sue Johnson, Towards Zero Deaths Coordinator – NW Region

248 125th Ave

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

218-766-5943

