

Department of Public Safety  
Minnesota State Patrol – District 3100 Virginia



High School Education and Enforcement Project



Trooper Jason Engeldinger  
Minnesota State Patrol – Virginia

Traffic crashes are the leading killer of Minnesota teens, primarily due to inexperience, risk-taking behind the wheel, speeding and distracted driving.

To confront this issue Minnesota State Troopers and local law enforcement officers brought an innovative seatbelt program to the high school students in Northeastern Minnesota

*April 7 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010.*

On Friday afternoon, four teenage girls (ages 16, 14, 13, 12) were involved in a single vehicle rollover near Altura, Minnesota (D2100). The girls had just left their high school for the day when they crashed on County Road 27 in Winona County. All four girls were thrown from the pickup, three of them died at the scene, while the fourth girl was air lifted to the hospital.

We have all been exposed to tragedies at the hands of impaired drivers, reckless drivers, inattentive drivers, and those that choose not to wear a seat belt. While the investigation and reconstruction into this crash will continue, we are all aware of the factors that likely contributed to this tragedy.

The importance of wearing seat belts has been emphasized by the State Patrol for many years. The passage of primary last summer has enabled us, through enforcement, to make great strides in educating the public about the importance of seat belt usage. It is sometimes easy to get caught up in the numbers related to fatal and serious injury crashes. This crash serves as a tragic reminder that there is a name and a face attached to each number.

It is worthy of stopping for a moment to think about this fact: One high school has lost three students, three families have lost a daughter and sister, and one community has three fewer citizens as a result of this crash. These same people are praying for the fourth victim to recover.

I'm very proud of the work you do on a daily basis. Please continue to promote the active enforcement of behaviors known to cause crashes, specifically a zero tolerance approach to seat belt enforcement. Each of us has the ability to do our best at preventing additional crashes like this one.

Sincerely,

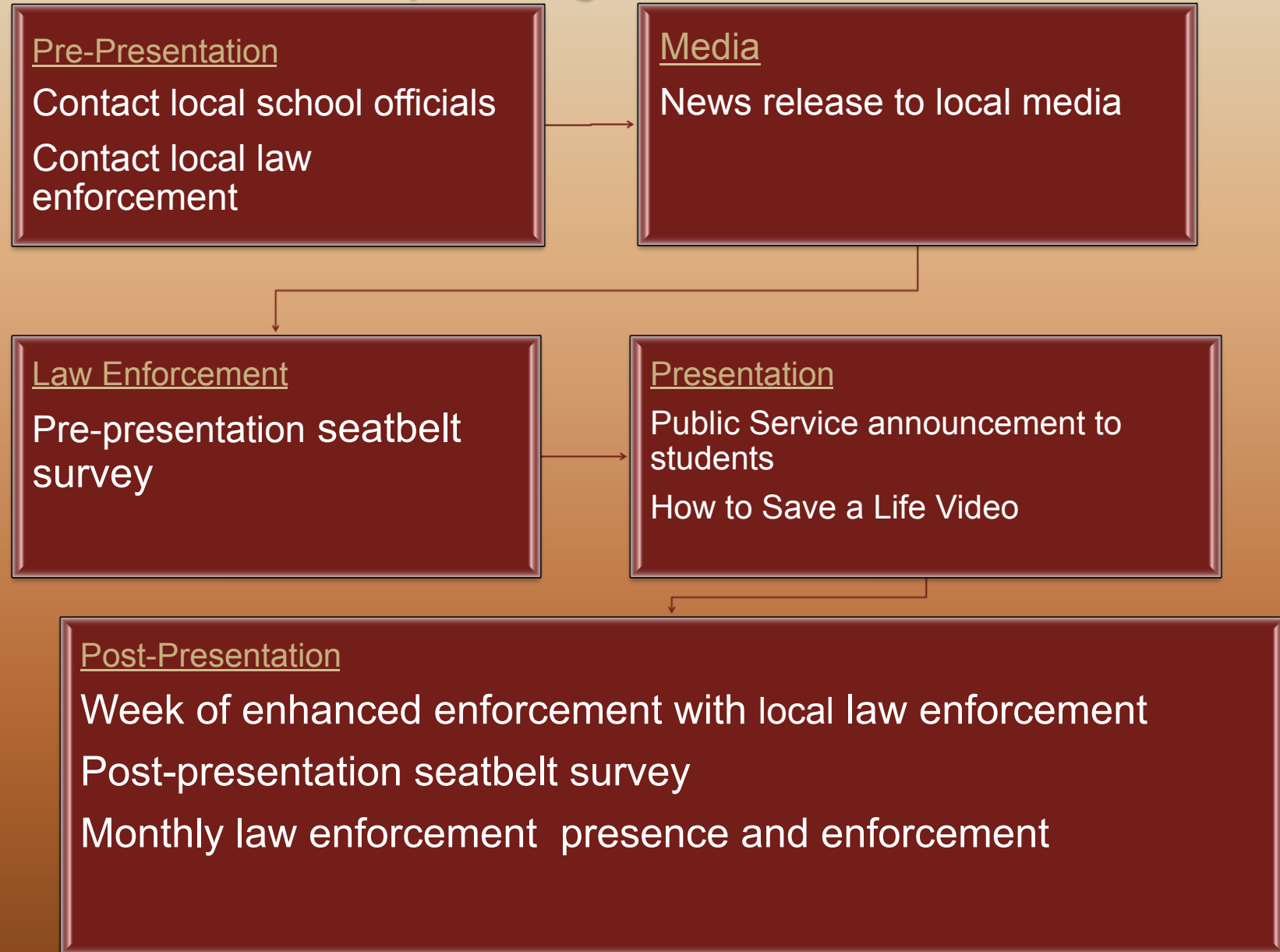
Mark A. Dunaski



## **PROGRAM GOAL**

**100 % Seatbelt  
compliance  
by high school students  
and zero deaths**

# Accomplishing the Goal



# Pre-Project Seatbelt Survey

Local Law Enforcement  
Conduct informal survey

Designate a specific area



Primary focus  
seatbelt compliance

Complete survey form

# How To Save A Life Video

No group of drivers has ever been more educated about the importance of seatbelts than young drivers. They couldn't even leave the hospital where they were born without a car seat. And yet, no group of drivers fails to buckle up more often than young drivers. The Minnesota State Patrol has had enough. It has developed a video called, "How to Save a Life."

Teenagers will see a carload of driver's safety material before they earn their own set of keys. But there's something about "How to Save a Life" the State Patrol hopes will make a bigger impact. The video mixes the grim reality of crash scenes with even grimmer testimony of the emotional aftermath.

"We can talk to about two hundred people dying and why you wear your seatbelt. We can talk until we're blue in the face but we show this video for 15

minutes and it puts it in a whole different perspective."



# Presentation Guidelines

## Introduction

- Student receives educational handouts, such as bail sheet handouts, seatbelt, dwi and distracted driving brochures
- Trooper introduction

## Presentation

- Video prep – it is graphic but a reality
- Seatbelt compliance and goal

## Presentation

- Current MSP Weekly Brief Statistics
- Present How to Save a Life video

## Conclusion

- Pay Attention
- Slow down – follow the speed limit
- Don't drink & drive
- Buckle up
- One on one question & answer with students



Law Enforcement, school officials and the media work together to promote safety

Provide Schools with Banners & Signs to post





# SEATBELT PROJECT ZONE

Itasca County – population 43,000  
3000 square miles



Largest city – Grand Rapids  
**16 cities and 42 organized townships**

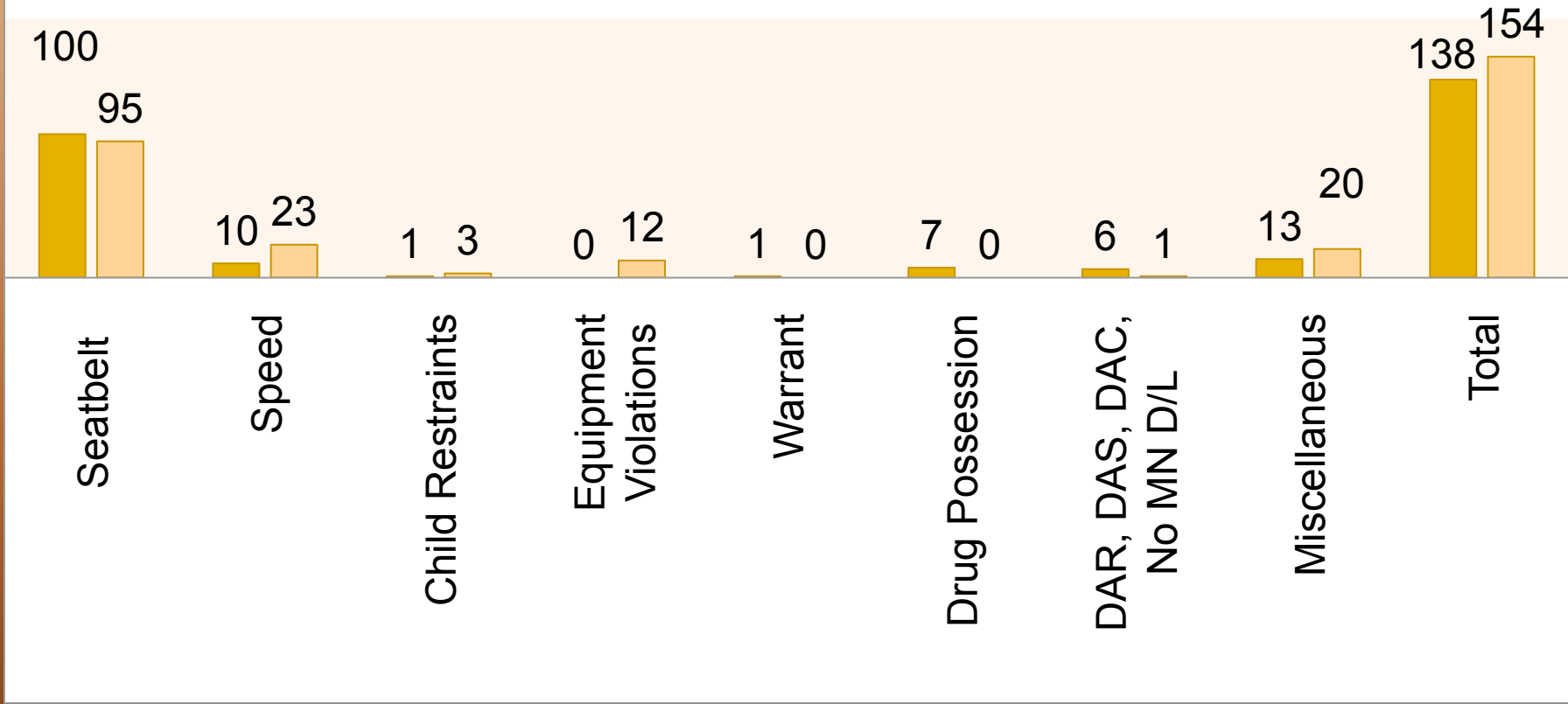
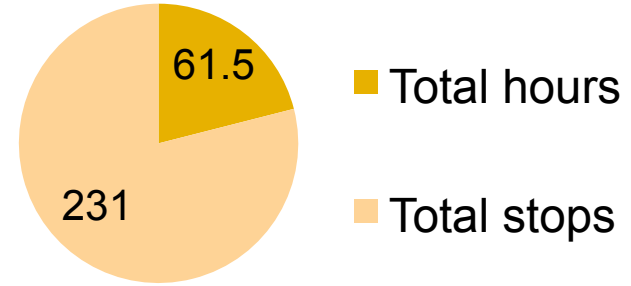


Participating High Schools . Grand Rapids, Bigfork, Deer River  
& Greenway combined high school enrollment of 1265

# Officer Activity

■ Citations    ■ Warnings

# Hours=Stops



# The results...

The purpose of this program is to combine efforts of high school officials, media, local police, county sheriff, and the state patrol to encourage safer teenage driving.

Our statistics prove, that working together, we can significantly improve seatbelt compliance and traffic safety for our students.

*Trooper Jason Engeldinger*

**Grand Rapids  
High School  
Student  
Population  
720**

Pre-Project survey  
92 % Seatbelt Use

Post-Project  
survey  
100 %  
Seatbelt use

**Deer River  
High School  
Student  
Population  
175**

Pre-Project survey  
86% Seatbelt Use

Post-Project  
survey  
95%  
Seatbelt use

**Bigfork  
High School  
Student  
Population  
100**

Pre-Project survey  
74 % Seatbelt Use

Post-Project  
survey  
87 %  
Seatbelt use

**Greenway  
High School  
Student  
Population  
270**

Pre-Project survey  
63 % Seatbelt Use

Post-Project  
survey  
83 %  
Seatbelt use

Pre-presentation enforcement 58 unbuckled

Post-presentation enforcement 21 unbuckled

**Of the 292 vehicles surveyed at the four high schools there was a 67 % decrease in unbuckled drivers.**

# How To Save A Life Video



# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

project.doc



Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

ARMER/911  
Program

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Homeland  
Security and  
Emergency  
Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire  
Marshal and  
Pipeline Safety



## Minnesota State Patrol District 3100

101 No. Hoover Road • Suite 100 • Virginia, MN 55792  
Phone: 218-749-7720 • Fax: 218-748-2427

To: Itasca County Sheriff's Office, Coleraine Police, Bovey Police, and  
3130 Station Troopers

From: Trooper Engeldinger

Subject: Greenway High School Traffic Enforcement/Education Project  
**03-01-2010 to 03-05-2010**

Officer's,

I have planned a program for traffic safety at the Greenway High School. This is the same program we have started in Grand Rapids and Bigfork. The emphasis is on teenage driving. A survey will be conducted prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> to get the seatbelt compliance rate near the high school. On March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1030 hours I will be doing an educational presentation along with the How to Save a Life Video with 10-12th grade students. All agencies are welcome to be at the presentation. The students will be informed of the enforcement plan. This is where you come involved to assist with the project goal of saving teenagers from dying on our roadways. Please get out and enforce the traffic laws. Remember the four leading causes of death related to driving:

1-Driver Inattention/Distraction	2-Speed
3-DWI	4-Seatbelt

We are asking you to spend a portion of your shift at the beginning and end of the school day enforcing traffic laws. I will be in the area from 0745-0845 and 1445-1545 hours (Pending on calls for service). Please take whatever action you feel is appropriate.

Enclosed is a log we would like you to take the time to complete. Please use a new form for each day.

If you have any questions please give me a call at 218-244-5348.

Respectfully,

Trooper Jason Engeldinger SP164

### CONDUCTING INFORMAL SURVEYS OF SAFETY BELT USE

Quick and easy to do, informal surveys of safety belt use can be useful for indicating general trends in seat belt use in specific areas. It is customary to count 100 vehicles at each site for these informal surveys. However, in smaller towns it is acceptable to observe for forty minutes at each site and calculate the percentage of use in the vehicles seen during that time. See tip 6 for the number of different sites at which to do a survey.

Here are a few key points and tips on informal surveys of safety belt use:

1. The surveys do not have to be done by licensed officers. Explorer scouts, reserve officers, retirees, and community activists are all potential observers.
2. It is very important to observe at the same location or locations each time you conduct the survey. Your rates for different time periods will be comparable if you do so. Therefore, it is best to plan ahead where you will be observing, what time the observing will begin, and whether the observing will be done on a weekday or weekend. Keep a copy of the plan and follow it each time you survey.
3. Observe only the shoulder belt use of the driver. Only a few older vehicles will have just lap belts in the front seat; these will be counted as unbelted. It is much more practical to try to spot shoulder belt use/non-use than lap belt use/non-use.
4. Observe drivers in all passenger vehicles: cars, pick up trucks, vans, and recreational vehicles.
5. It is preferable to observe the traffic going only in the direction that passes closest to the observer; again it is much easier to spot belt use/non-use in close vehicles. If 100 vehicles have not been seen after 40 minutes have passed, the survey can still be considered complete.
6. The selection of sites is up to you. Most informal surveys are done on relatively high traffic roadways. However, keep in mind that accurate observations will be easier to make if the traffic isn't traveling too fast. Surveying at a minimum of three sites is required. If you presently have a Safe & Sober grant survey at the same sites you planned for that effort; if there were more than three you must do all planned. At each site, observe either 100 drivers or as many as pass in forty minutes. Change to a new survey form when you change sites.
7. Since this type of survey is informal, it is best used to compare the rates over time and use them as an indicator of general trends in seat belt use. Formal use surveys include hundreds of sites on all types of roadways and statistical weighting techniques; informal surveys shouldn't be expected to show results comparable with formal ones.
8. **Report your findings to the press**, being careful to explain it is an informal survey. Has use gone up or down and by how much? Is there one location that always has higher seat belt use? How does your rate compare with a neighboring community's rate? Can you find an electronic message board to report the use rate? Will the schools in your area participate in a competition to see which has the highest rate?

A form you can use to collect data is on the back. It provides space to indicate belt use (yes) or non-use (no) for the drivers of 100 vehicles - the maximum observed at a single site.

#### Informal Seat Belt Survey Form

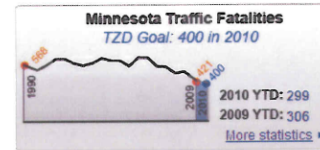
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVER: \_\_\_\_\_ INTERSECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
1			26		51		76	
2			27		52		77	
3			28		53		78	
4			29		54		79	
5			30		55		80	
6			31		56		81	
7			32		57		82	
8			33		58		83	
9			34		59		84	
10			35		60		85	
11			36		61		86	
12			37		62		87	
13			38		63		88	
14			39		64		89	
15			40		65		90	
16			41		66		91	
17			42		67		92	
18			43		68		93	
19			44		69		94	
20			45		70		95	
21			46		71		96	
22			47		72		97	
23			48		73		98	
24			49		74		99	
25			50		75		100	

Percent using belts = \_\_\_\_\_



**Statewide Fatality Crash Counts**  
 Reported as of 09/29 by the  
 DPS Division of Driver & Vehicle Services



**Year to Date Fatal Count**

	2010	2009	2009	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
		Pre	Actual	YTD								
TOTAL	303	313	324	421	455	510	494	559	567	655	657	568
MC	29	48	48	53	72	61	70	59	50	62	47	42
PED	24	26	27	41	25	33	38	44	37	52	50	46
BIKE	8	6	5	10	13	4	8	7	10	6	7	7

**Department of Public Safety**  
**State Patrol Division**

**Daily Brief Report for all districts.**

Report date/time: 9/30/2010 6:59:08 AM      9/22/2010 00:00:00 - 09/28/2010 23:59:59

Districts	Property Damage Crashes	Personal Injury Crashes	Fatal Crashes	DWI Arrests	Assists to Allied Agencies
2100	41	6	1	8	26
2200	23	8	0	0	35
2300	12	1	1	1	26
2400	152	31	0	28	11
2500	186	42	0	27	25
2600	33	9	0	9	25
2700	19	4	0	2	29
2800	21	8	0	7	36
2900	22	2	1	2	27
3100	10	4	0	2	19
3200	13	3	0	0	24
4600	4	0	0	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>286</b>

Aviation Section Events	Capitol Security/Executive Protection Section Events	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section Events	K9 Events	DRE Events	Crash Reconstruction Events
22	446	731	14	3	6
Traffic Stops	MSP Pursuits	AOA Pursuits	Wanted Person Apprehensions	Stolen Vehicle Recoveries	Narcotics Arrests
5486	0	3	25	0	25
Driving Complaints	Motorist Assists				
771	870				

## GREENWAY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

High School Presentation-How to Save a Life

Handout court bail sheets and brochures.

Good Afternoon Students I am Trooper Jason Engeldinger from the MN State Patrol. I am here to promote traffic safety. You will see new signs and postings on the school grounds as a constant reminder of the video you are about to see. This video is graphic in detail but is the reality of what has happened on MN roadways. We have planned an enhanced enforcement project for teenage driving in and around the Greenway area. We have completed a survey which showed a **67 percent compliance rate for seatbelts** use from Greenway High School Students. Our goal is for 100 percent compliance.

Talk about crash statistics from MSP Daily Brief

Buckling up is the simplest way you can save your life if involved in a crash. Please watch and listen closely to the video!

Show Video

### **Conclusion:**

Thank you for your attention during the video.

There is nothing worse for Troopers and Officers than walking up the steps to your parent's front door and giving them the notification that you were killed or seriously injury in a car crash. Your actions can affect your family, friends, and community so please follow the four simple rules for safer driving.

1-Pay Attention

2-Slow down/follow the speed limit

3-Don't Drink and Drive

4-Buckle Up

Once again thank you for your time!





# FINAL OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORT

## DEER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

04-26-2010 TO 04-30-2010

TOTAL COMBINED OFFICER HOURS WORKED

**8.5 HOURS**

	NUMBER OF VEHICLES STOPPED
	NUMBER OF VEHICLES TOWED
	NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

ARRESTS/CITATIONS	WARNINGS	TYPE OF VIOLATION
		SEATBELT
		CHILD RESTRAINT
		SPEED
		DWI
		UNDER 21 DRINK/DRIVE
		UNDER 21 CONSUME/POSSESSION ALCOHOL
		EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS
		OTHER MOVING VIOLATIONS
		DAC/DAR/DAS/DAC-IPS/NO VALID MN DL
		DRUG POSSESSION/SALE
		MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS NOT ALREADY REPORTED
		TOTALS



# Questions ????????????

Trp. Jason Engeldinger, SP 164  
218-748-2426 (MSP Dispatch)

Ofc. Brian Mattson, #326  
218-326-3464 (GRPD Dispatch)