



News Release

SE MN Toward Zero Deaths Initiative
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First “Dying to Get Home” Saturation Results Issued ***SE Minnesota Agencies Join Forces in Toward Zero Deaths Initiative***

ROCHESTER, Minn.-- State Patrol, several county sheriff departments and city police departments stopped 149 motorists for various traffic violations during the *Dying to Get Home* saturation efforts last Friday, resulting in 157 violations.

Participating agencies focused the first saturation in Wabasha County last Friday, April 20, from 3 to 7 p.m. This specific timeframe was selected as a disproportionate number of fatal and serious injury crashes occur at that time as traffic volumes are increased due to drive-time commuters, students with after-school activities and people just wanting to “get home.”

“Traffic crashes and the resulting fatalities and injuries are preventable,” says Wabasha County Sheriff Rodney Bartsh. “Enforcing all traffic laws, including impaired driving, wearing seat belts and speeding, is critical to saving lives.”

Specifically, the enforcement yielded 149 vehicle stops, 46 citations for various offenses related to DWI, outstanding warrants, drugs, no insurance, illegal substance/open bottle, unbelted occupants and equipment and 111 warnings. The figures do not reflect violations or warnings issued during regular traffic enforcement.

This enforcement and public education campaign is unique in that all participating law enforcement agencies will jointly saturate a select area to encourage safe driving and enforce posted speed limits, as well as seat belt and other traffic laws.

Three more saturations are planned this year throughout the 11-county area.

The southeast MN TZD initiative brings area law enforcement, public health educators, engineers and emergency services together in an effort to reduce the number of traffic fatalities and severe injuries to zero in southeast Minnesota. The 11-county area includes: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Winona and Wabasha counties.

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