



NEWS RELEASE

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THIS WEEKEND'S FISH-FORECAST: WALL TO WALLEYE TRAFFIC, OFFICIALS URGE ROAD SAFETY

State Agencies Remind Anglers of Road Construction Projects, Safe Summer Driving

ST. PAUL — A recent rash of fatal- and serious-injury rollover crashes across the state last week has prompted state officials to urge fishing-bound motorists to buckle up and travel at safe speeds.

Officials from the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Transportation say motorists will face several driving challenges this weekend including heavy traffic and construction projects that will cause detours and likely delays. Motorists also need to obey speed limits and pay special attention to an influx of motorcyclists on the road.

“Your speed shouldn’t rise just because the temperature does,” says Lt. Mark Peterson of the State Patrol. “The best way to guarantee a crash is to increase speeds and not focus on driving.”

The State Patrol urges motorists to follow four basic rules behind the wheel: buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention, and use a designated driver if alcohol is consumed.

Drinking is also an issue on boats, according to DNR. Alcohol slows reaction time, effects night vision and increases chances of boat collisions, capsizing or drowning. Boating while intoxicated can cost up to \$1,000, possible jail time, and loss of boat operating privileges for 90 days.

State law says motorists must slow down and move over for law enforcement, emergency responders and road crews to ensure roadside safety. Fines are increased in work zones.

“The crews on the side of the road are working to make Minnesota roads a safer place to travel,” says Lt. Gov. and Transportation Commissioner Carol Molnau. “So it is vital motorists make the crews’ jobs safer by slowing down and paying attention.”

This year, MnDOT will start or resume hundreds of highway improvement projects — most will shut down during the weekend. However, several projects will require lane closures, detours or two-way traffic on adjacent roadways until they are completed. A full list of road projects is posted at www.mndot.gov. Check road and weather conditions at www.511mn.org or call 511.

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