



NEWS RELEASE

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JULY IS HIGHEST MONTH IN 2009 FOR NIGHTCAP DWI ARRESTS

ST. PAUL — July Operation NightCAP (nighttime concentrated alcohol patrol) DWI enforcement campaigns resulted in 196 DWI arrests — the highest monthly total for DWI arrests in 2009. In July, participating NightCAP officers stopped 3,961 vehicles and issued 1,354 citations for traffic- and equipment-related violations including 144 citations for seat belt non-use.

“Arresting DWI offenders is a team effort,” says Lt. Matt Langer of the Minnesota State Patrol. “We all go out with the common goal of protecting Minnesota motorists by arresting drunk drivers.”

According to Langer, DWI enforcement efforts are vital during the summer driving season when impaired driving activity and alcohol-related fatalities spike. During July, August and September in 2006–2008, alcohol-related crashes accounted for 164 deaths — representing 32 percent of all alcohol-related deaths for the three-year period.

Summer-long enhanced DWI enforcement through enforcement activity will continue in the state’s 13 deadliest counties for impaired driving. These extra overtime patrols are over and beyond regular DWI enforcement activity.

During 2006–2008, traffic crashes killed 1,459 people on Minnesota roads — 519 were alcohol related. Historically, more than 30 percent of all fatal traffic crashes are alcohol-related.

NightCAP targets the 13 deadliest counties for impaired driving: Anoka, Blue Earth, Crow Wing, Dakota, Hennepin, Itasca, Ramsey, Rice, St. Louis, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Wright. During 2005–2007, these counties accounted for more than half of the state’s alcohol-related deaths (272) and serious injuries (663).

NightCAP efforts have generated 1,284 DWI arrests since enhanced DWI patrols began in fall 2008: Anoka (372), Blue Earth (89), Crow Wing (26), Dakota (61), Hennepin (270), Itasca (36), Ramsey (165), Rice (43), St. Louis (61), Sherburne (66), Stearns (36), Washington (36) and Wright (23).

NightCAP is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. The program combines city, county and state law enforcement agencies to target specific roadways where impaired driving is likely.

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- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
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- State Fire Marshal