



NEWS ADVISORY

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2016

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DISTRACTED DRIVING CONTINUES TO SHATTER LIVES
Media Availability: Chief of the State Patrol to Discuss Fatal Crash that Took Life of Young Woman

WHAT: The Minnesota State Patrol is investigating a fatal crash where distractions are suspected of causing the death of a 22-year-old woman from Hudson, Wisconsin.

The 20-year-old driver, who is cooperating with investigators, indicated that he may have been distracted in the vehicle when he lost control of his car and landed on top of the victim’s vehicle.

The crash, which took place on Highway 95 at 22nd St. N. in Lakeland Township, brings the overall 2016 preliminary fatal count to 50 traffic deaths in Minnesota compared with 31 reported at this time last year.

WHEN: **Tuesday, March 1, at 2 p.m.**

WHERE: **Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Media Room**
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, Minn. 55101
(Please enter through media room door on Southwest corner – adjacent to drive thru area).

WHO: **Col. Matt Langer, Chief of the State Patrol**

- Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Driver and Vehicle Services
- Emergency Communication Networks
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Office of Communications
- Office of Justice Programs
- Office of Pipeline Safety
- Office of Traffic Safety
- State Fire Marshal

WHY: In 2014, distracted driving contributed to 61 deaths on Minnesota roads, accounting for 17 percent of all fatalities.

Overall, distracted driving contributes to:

- One in four crashes in Minnesota.
- An average of 60 deaths and 7,900 injuries a year (2012 – 2014)

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, as well as access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. This includes sitting at a stoplight or stopped in traffic.

Editor's Note: A live stream of the media availability will appear on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/jXPUxa51WgY>. If our Internet connection is interrupted, or you experience technical problems during the live event, you can access a recorded version posted to the [MnDPS YouTube channel](#) soon after the live stream.