



NEWS ADVISORY

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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

MINNESOTA STATE PATROL CRUISES INTO THE TWIN CITIES AUTO SHOW

DPS Traffic Safety Experts to Give Demonstrations and Advice March 12 – 20

WHAT: Meet members of the Minnesota State Patrol, check out the workings of a squad car, and learn how to stay safe on Minnesota roadways at the 2016 Twin Cities Auto Show.

This year, Auto Show guests will also:

- Experience a roadside DWI test.
- Operate the AAA distracted driving simulator.
- View the ignition interlock system.
- Meet Matka, the newest member of the State Patrol’s K-9 team and its only explosives detecting dog.
- Ask questions about teen driving and child passenger safety car seats.

WHEN: **State Patrol Troopers will be on the Auto Show floor throughout the event.**

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. on March 12, 16, 18, 19
- 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. on March 14, 15, 17
- 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on March 13 and 20

Demonstrations and Experts

- **March 12 & 19, 12 – 3 p.m.:** Drunk Goggles and Ignition Interlock Demonstration
- **March 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.:** Teen Driving Safety
- **March 13, 2 – 4 p.m.:** Meet Matka, with K-9 Demonstration at 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.
- **March 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.:** Distracted Driving Simulator
- **March 20, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.:** Child Passenger Safety Education

WHERE: Minneapolis Convention Center
1301 Second Ave S
Troopers, Squads and Experts will be located in the Ride and Drive Section

WHO: **Minnesota State Patrol Troopers**
Jody Oscarson, Impaired Driving Coordinator
Gordy Pehrson, Teen Driving Coordinator
Heather Darby, Child & Passenger Safety Coordinator
Matka, State Patrol Explosives Detecting K-9
Kaj Meinhardt, Matka's Partner

WHY: The mission of the Minnesota State Patrol and the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) is to keep the public safe on the roads. Through education and enforcement Troopers, hope to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes in Minnesota.

Distracted Driving

- Contributes to one in four crashes in Minnesota.
- Contributes to an average of 60 deaths and 7,900 injuries a year (2012 – 2014)

DWIs continue to cost lives on Minnesota roads

- One out of four deaths is drunk driving-related.
- Results in 96 deaths per year.

The teen driving years can be scary for any parent

- Traffic crashes are the leading killer of 16-17-year-olds in Minnesota after suicide.
- An average of 32 teens are killed and more than 3,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes each year (2010 – 2014).

Child passenger seats save lives

- Traffic crashes are a leading killer of youth.
- Three out of four car seats are installed incorrectly.