



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEAT BURNS THE ROAD WITH OVER 1,300 SPEED CITATIONS

First Week Yields 3,400 Vehicle Stops

ST. PAUL — During the first week of the recently launched HEAT (highway enforcement of aggressive traffic), participating law enforcement agencies statewide stopped 3,403 vehicles for various traffic violations and cited 1,363 drivers for illegal speeding. The reporting period was September 26 through October 2.

“Across our state, law enforcement agencies are increasing road safety for Minnesotans,” says Col. Mark Dunaski, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol. “We’re enforcing all traffic laws with particular attention to speed. The posted speed is the speed limit.”

The highest concentration of vehicle stops and speeding violations occurred in the Twin Cities metro with 982 and 572, respectively. Stops and speed violations for the rest of the state were reported by coordinating State Patrol districts: Brainerd (240/62); Detroit Lakes (160/50); Duluth (209/93); Mankato (258/84); Marshall (354/90); Rochester (481/166); St. Cloud (370/159); Thief River Falls (163/20); and Virginia (186/67).

The reported figures represent only HEAT vehicle stops and speed citations and do not reflect other traffic violations or warnings issued or the results of ongoing, regular traffic enforcement by agencies statewide. In 2004 in Minnesota, there were 175,155 speed citations on driving records for a weekly average of 3,368 speeding tickets by all reporting agencies.

HEAT, a year-long \$2.5 million federally funded speed enforcement program, is supported by nearly 1,400 hours of additional weekly enforcement by the Patrol, county sheriffs’ offices and local police departments.

In the five-year period 2000–2004, more than 3,000 persons were killed in traffic crashes on Minnesota roads. Speeding was a factor in 864 of those deaths at an economic impact of \$902 million. Twice as many speed-related fatal crashes occurred in rural areas than in urban areas. Illegal or unsafe speed was the most often cited factor in crashes involving younger drivers.

Toward Zero Deaths

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Apprehension

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Minnesota
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Communications

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Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal
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Pipeline Safety