

## “Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”

**Give your traffic safety efforts a boost by piggybacking on the next statewide impaired driving campaign, July 3 - 26.**

The campaign is a combination of enforcement and public awareness activities. Coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, it will include more than 400 law enforcement agencies united under the theme “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest!”



### Here are the hard facts:

- In Minnesota traffic crashes are the leading cause of workplace death and the leading cause of death through age 44.
- Last year 494 people were killed on our roads; 166 of those deaths were alcohol related.
- Nearly 42,000 DWI citations were issued.
- The economic impact of alcohol-related crashes/deaths was more than \$277 billion.

We have the resources to help you involve your workplace in this effort, showing your concern for your employees' safety on the road and for your community. See [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/nets](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/nets) for a link to numerous resources (“July Impaired Driving Campaign”). And use the following page as a hand-out or poster for employees. Join with us and other businesses throughout the state in the effort to prevent these human and economic losses.

## Impairment: It's Not Just About Alcohol

Alcohol impairment and driving under the influence of illegal drugs are a significant threat on our roads, but impairment can result from other causes as well. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that drowsy driving causes at least 100,000 police-reported crashes and kills more than 1,550 Americans each year. According to the National Sleep Foundation, sleepiness has effects similar to alcohol, slowing reaction time, decreasing awareness, impairing judgment and increasing the risk of crashing. Prescription drugs can also create problems, either through side effects such as fatigue or dizziness; or in combination with over-the-counter drugs or alcohol.

**For more information about sleep impairment and driving, see [www.drowsydriving.org](http://www.drowsydriving.org)**



## Impaired Driving: Not Just Alcohol

Impaired driving means driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. These include illegal drugs, prescription drugs and common over-the-counter drugs used for sleep aids, allergies, colds and coughs.

## Everyone is Affected

People who don't drink or who never drink and drive still share in the losses caused by those who do. Take responsibility for yourself and those you care about: If you're drinking, don't drive. Take the keys from friends or family members who try to drink and drive.

## Some Hard Facts

- Last year, 36 percent of fatal crashes in Minnesota involved alcohol.
- Alcohol is a contributing factor in 39 percent of all work-related crashes.
- A DWI conviction on a person's driving record may prevent them from getting a job, receiving a promotion or even result in loss of a job.
- Many companies have corrective action programs that suspend company driving privileges for a DWI violation.
- Driving skills, especially judgment, are impaired before people appear intoxicated.

## How to Spot an Impaired Driver

Be alert to the following behaviors that may indicate an impaired driver:

- Weaving, swerving, drifting or straddling the center lane
- Driving on the wrong side of the road
- Driving at a very slow speed
- Stopping without cause or braking erratically
- Turning abruptly or responding slowly to traffic signals
- Driving with the window down in cold weather
- Driving with headlights off at night

Keep a safe distance from drivers who may be impaired and alert the police.

Sources: National Safety Council, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, OSHA, NHTSA

