



Press Release
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AGENCY: CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
SHERIFF: JASON KAMERUD (602TsF)
CLASSIFICATION: EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT
LOCATION: CARVER COUNTY
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Summer activities may dial UP, but high traffic speeds need to dial DOWN

Drive Smart: Extra Speed Enforcement on Carver County Roads June 22 – July 19

As Minnesotans are staying closer to home, many still hope to enjoy traditional summer activities. To keep families safe, law enforcement will be spending extra time educating and stopping speeders who jeopardize innocent lives. The statewide extra speed enforcement and awareness campaign runs from June 22 – July 19. It will remind Minnesotans to drive smart, obey speed limits and save healthcare resources for battling COVID-19.

Due to COVID-19 limiting activities, some drivers are taking advantage of less traffic with *excessive* speeding and *careless* driving behaviors. Instead of reduced traffic helping lessen fatalities, speeding and careless drivers claimed lives and contributed to high fatalities. “This has turned into a challenging year for so many Minnesotans – let’s not make it any worse this summer with the selfish choice to speed,” said Sheriff Kamerud. “Driving aggressively and speeding risk lives and can lead to life-changing injuries. Our healthcare resources need to be available for treating COVID-19. Minnesotans can ensure those resources are available by driving smart and obeying the speed limit.”

Short-Term Improvements - Long-Term Concerns

Preliminary reports show speed contributed to 75 motorist deaths on Minnesota roads in 2019, the lowest since 2012.

Speed-Related Traffic Fatalities

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
86	85	74	76	94	78	89	88	113	75

Long-term trends are less encouraging. When comparing preliminary numbers for the five-year periods of 2010-2014 and 2015-2019:

- There has been a 7% increase in speed-related fatalities.
- In 2010-2014, 22% of all serious injuries were speed-related. In 2015-2019, it was 27%.

If you need assistance from police, fire or medical personnel call 9-1-1. Anyone with information related to an incident or crime is asked to contact the Carver County Sheriff’s Office at 952-361-1212. After hours, call 952-361-1231. To remain anonymous, you may leave a message on the tip line: 952-361-1224. You may also use the tip form on the Sheriff’s Office website at: <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/county-sheriff/crime-prevention/crime-tips>

Dial Down High Speeds This Summer

Excessive speeding over recent months is *very* concerning and requires Minnesotans to recommit to slowing down this summer.

- From April 1 – May 21, the Minnesota State Patrol pulled over 232 drivers traveling more than 100 mph compared with 93 drivers during the same time period last year – this is a 149% increase.
- Of the 232 drivers cited by the Minnesota State Patrol from April 1 – May 21, 179 were 30-years-old or younger.
- Overall fatal crashes and fatalities from March 16 - May 31 increased over last year despite reduced traffic.
- While a crash can have more than one contributing factor, speed was the most frequently cited factor.

All fatal crashes and fatalities for March 16-May 31:

- **2020: 61 (67 deaths)**
- **2019: 52 (55 deaths)**
- **2018: 65 (71 deaths)**
- **2017: 62 (65 deaths)**
- **2016: 66 (70 deaths)**
- **2015: 81 (85 deaths)**

The Carver County Sheriff's Office is joining police officers, sheriffs' deputies and troopers from more than 300 agencies statewide to look for speeders jeopardizing the lives of themselves and others. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) coordinates the extra enforcement and education effort. DPS-OTS provides federal overtime funding for law enforcement officers to conduct increased patrols.

Summer and Speed – Make the Safe Choice

Drivers who think speeding is not a big deal risk more than just a speeding ticket:

- During the 100 most traveled days (Memorial Day - Labor Day) in 2019, preliminary numbers show speed played a role in 31 fatalities.
- During the 100 most traveled days in the past five years (2015-2019), preliminary numbers show that 125 people lost their lives in speed-related crashes.
- In 2019, speed was a contributing factor in 26% of single-vehicle crashes.
- More than twice as many speed-related fatal crashes occur on rural roads than major urban roads.

Reduce Speed - Reduce Chance of a Crash

- Gives the driver more vehicle control.
- Allows the driver to respond more quickly to road situations.
- Decreases the severity of the impact during a crash.

Count to Three

- Motorists should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles.
- It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.

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