



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

NEWS ADVISORY

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STATE PATROL TROOPERS HIT THE GRIDIRON TO “GO DEEP” WITH BUCKLE UP MESSAGE

WHAT: The State Patrol is launching—literally—a new program to encourage teenagers to buckle their seat belts.

Troopers will use t-shirt launchers at high school football games this season to pass an important message intended for high school students: Wear your seat belt.

The loud, neon-green t-shirts are emblazoned with “Everyday I’m Bucklin.”

The events will be accompanied by stadium public address announcements as well as morning school messages that reinforce the important “buckle up” message.

WHEN & WHERE: The first t-shirt launching events will be held during football games Thursday and Friday (Aug. 29 – 30) at the following high schools:

Thursday (Aug. 29)

- Minnetonka vs. Shakopee (Shakopee H.S.)
- Ely vs. Mountain Iron-Buhl (Mountain Iron-Buhl H.S.)
- Byron vs. Zumbrota-Mazeppa (Zumbrota-Mazeppa H.S.)
- Milaca vs. Pierz (Pierz H.S.)
- St. Michael-Albertville vs. Buffalo (Buffalo H.S.)

Friday (Aug. 30)

- Deer River vs. Greenway (Greenway H.S.)
- Austin vs. Faribault (Faribault H.S.)
- Mound Westonka vs. New London-Spicer (New London-Spicer H.S.)

WHY: Traffic crashes are the leading killer of Minnesota teens due to inexperience, risk-taking, distractions and low seat belt compliance. In the past five years, 203 teens were killed in crashes, and of those, 165 were vehicle occupants, of which only 67 (41 percent) were belted.

Another component of the campaign is to encourage parents to understand their role in developing safer teen drivers. Parents should talk to their teen to reinforce driving laws such as always buckling up — in front and back seats — and stress that it is illegal to text and drive, including when stopped in traffic. Drivers under age 18 are also banned from any cell phone use.

Parents should also enforce passenger and nighttime driving limitations laws. Teen drivers may not have more than one passenger under age 20 during their first six months of licensure, unless accompanied by a parent.

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