

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MINNESOTA STATE PATROL

2022 Flight Section Data

Month	Traffic Details (events)	Searches (hours)
January	24	29
February	36	65
March	32	87
April	27	77
May	47	55
June	47	86
July	112	75.1
August	76	37.3
September	81	37.7
October	74	46.1
November	46	16.5
December	49	6.9

Traffic Details

There are two methods of traffic enforcement using air support. Our traditional speed detail requires one pilot in the air working with troopers on the ground. The detail takes place in a pre-planned location marked for airborne speed enforcement. The markings on the roadway are surveyed, measured and painted by roadway engineers and include a large white strip at quarter-mile increments. The pilot observes the front of the vehicle pass the white marker and starts their stopwatch, which is used through one or more zones to determine the vehicle's speed. The pilot then notifies troopers on the ground to stop the vehicle and the troopers proceed with enforcement.

Another method of traffic enforcement uses technology featured on the Cirrus SR22 aircraft. The crew monitors for driving complaints and surveys local roadways for vehicles that are displaying indicators of reckless, distracted or impaired driving. When the crew locates these vehicles they communicate with troopers on the ground to stop them. The traffic enforcement team typically records the driving behavior to assist prosecutors. Having the aircraft airborne on this type of active patrol allows for a rapid response to pursuit mitigation and assists to other agencies.

Searches

A search and find mission differs from a search and rescue mission in that the victim does not want to be found. Search and find missions typically take place after a subject flees from law enforcement, whether during a traffic stop or at a crime scene. The air unit helps ground units search for the subject using either a daytime camera or an infrared camera. Pilots can search large areas and difficult terrain more quickly and effectively than ground units. Once a suspicious person is found by the air unit, the crew will communicate the best way for a ground unit to make contact with them.

