

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 23, 2021

**UPCOMING SOUTHEAST REGION SOBRIETY  
CHECKPOINT AND SATURATION PATROL  
UPDATE RESULTS**

**NARRATIVE:** On Friday, August 20, the North Dakota Highway Patrol and Cass County Sheriff's Office will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in Cass County. Nursing staff from Essentia Health will be participating and providing information to drivers about the risks of driving while under the influence. Saturation patrols will be conducted in Cass and Ransom Counties after the checkpoint and on Saturday, August 21.

The purpose of the checkpoint and saturation patrols is to deter impaired driving and to remove impaired drivers from the road. As of August 12, 2021, there have been 65 fatalities on North Dakota roadways. Twenty of the fatalities have been related to crashes involving alcohol.

Sgt. Jed Dahnke, NDHP Southeast Regional Sergeant stated, "We are seeing an increase in risky driving behaviors to include speeding, distracted driving, and driving under the influence. These behaviors are leading to more fatalities and serious injury crashes, but many can be prevented. Drivers need to recognize their choices affect others and make the choice to never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

The North Dakota Highway Patrol is committed to the Vision Zero strategy which aims to establish a culture of personal responsibility for personal safety and the safety of others. Alcohol and drug-related crashes are preventable; every driver needs to consistently make the responsible choice to always drive sober or to designate a sober driver.

**UPDATE:** During the sobriety checkpoint, 708 vehicles were screened; seventy-one drivers were evaluated for impairment, eleven arrests were made: six arrests for driving under the influence; two arrests for driving under suspension; one arrest for minor in consumption; and two for drug-related violations. One open container citation was issued. Thank you to Essentia staff, who assisted during the checkpoint by handing out over 500 cookies and information regarding the dangers of driving while impaired.

Weekend saturation patrols resulted in four arrests for driving under the influence; two arrests for driving under suspension; three arrests for minor in consumption; and two for drug-related violations, for a total of eleven arrests. Two open container citations were also issued. Thank you to NDDOT and Cass County Sheriff's Office for their assistance during the weekend enforcement. The North Dakota Highway Patrol and partner agencies are committed to taking impaired drivers and illegal drugs off North Dakota roads as we work together to reach Vision Zero: zero fatalities and serious crashes on North Dakota roadways.

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