

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 10, 2023

Mercer County Sobriety Checkpoint and Saturation Patrol Results

NARRATIVE: On Saturday, Sept. 9, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Department conducted a sobriety checkpoint at Highway 200 MM 149 approximately 1 mile west of Hazen in Mercer County from 7 pm to 9 pm. Impaired driving and impaired driving-related motor vehicle crashes continue to be a threat to the safety of travelers on North Dakota's roadways. Every 13 hours, an alcohol-related crash occurs on the state's roadways. Through August 26th of this year, there have been 69 fatalities in 60 crashes on North Dakota roadways. Alcohol was a factor in about 13% of those fatal crashes. Drug impairment is also a growing concern on the roads in North Dakota.

The sobriety checkpoint reflects NDHP's ongoing efforts to maintain roadway safety by targeting specific times and locations to have a greater impact at reducing incidence of impaired driving. In addition to the checkpoint, saturation patrols were conducted in Mercer County after the checkpoint.

141 vehicles were stopped at the checkpoint resulting in 7 drivers being screened for impairment and 1 driver arrested for Driving Under the Influence. The saturation that followed resulted in multiple charges including 2 minors in consumption of alcohol, 1 drug arrest, and 1 reckless driving.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol is committed to the Vision Zero strategy which aims to establish a culture of personal responsibility where motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries are recognized as preventable. The North Dakota Highway Patrol reminds all motorists, motorcycle drivers, OHV drivers, and bicyclists to share the road; ensure all occupants are wearing seatbelts; drive distraction-free; and always make the responsible choice to drive sober.

For More Information Contact:

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