

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | March 21, 2024

SOUTHEAST REGION ENFORCEMENT EVENT RESULTS

UPDATE: The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) along with the Cass County Sheriff's Office, conducted a sobriety checkpoint from 5:00 PM until 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 16, on I-29, exit 60 (southbound). One thousand vehicles traveled through the checkpoint; thirteen drivers were screened for impairment which resulted in two DUI arrests. In addition, four drug related citations: two for marijuana possession and two for marijuana paraphernalia; were issued. During the checkpoint, one vehicle stopped on the off-ramp prior to the checkpoint and attempted to reverse down the off-ramp. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver, who only had an instructional permit, was cited for limitations on backing; and stopping where prohibited.

Nursing staff from Essentia Health and the regional Vision Zero Coordinator also participated in the checkpoint and handed out educational materials to drivers.

Following the checkpoint, the NDHP conducted saturation patrols in the area. During the saturation patrol, there were four DUI arrests; one DUI refusal arrest; three DUS (Driving Under Suspension) arrests; two drug citations (possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia); four driving without insurance citations; two seat belt citations; two texting and driving citations; and three driving without a license citations were issued. In addition, 46 warnings were issued during the saturation patrol.

One of the DUI arrests was the result of a one vehicle rollover crash that occurred on I-94, exit 338. The driver struck two delineator poles and overturned once. The driver had minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital prior to being transported to the Cass County Jail.

NARRATIVE: On Saturday, March 16, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) along with the Cass County Sheriff's Office, will conduct a DUI checkpoint at a predetermined location in Cass County. Following the checkpoint, the North Dakota Highway Patrol will conduct saturation patrols in Cass County.

Impaired driving and impaired driving related motor vehicle crashes threaten the safety of everyone traveling on North Dakota's roadways. Through February 26 of this year, there have been eleven fatal crashes on North Dakota roads. The sobriety checkpoint and saturation events are part of the NDHP's ongoing efforts to maintain roadway safety for the traveling public.

NDHP Sgt. Adam Malafa stated, "If you are planning to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, part of

your plans should be to either schedule a ride-share service or designate a sober driver for a safe trip home. Drivers hold a personal responsibility not only for their own safety but also for the safety of others traveling on our roadways." He further stated, "Never drive while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substances that can compromise your driving capabilities and decision-making abilities."

The North Dakota Highway Patrol is committed to the Vision Zero strategy which encourages all motorists to take personal responsibility for their safety and the safety of others on the road by driving sober, wearing seatbelts, and driving distraction-free. Results from these planned enforcements will be released early the week following the event.

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