

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 19, 2024

SOUTHEAST REGION ENFORCEMENT ANNOUNCED UPDATE

UPDATE: The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) along with the Cass County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Fargo Police Department (FPD), conducted a sobriety checkpoint from 5:15 PM until 6:15 PM on Saturday, May 18th, on I-29, exit 67 (northbound). Four Hundred Eighty-One vehicles traveled through the checkpoint; fourteen drivers were screened for impairment which resulted in two DUI arrests. One of the DUI drivers had two warrants for his arrest.

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, CCSO, and FPD conducted saturation patrols in the area. During the saturation patrol, there was one DUI arrest; three DUS (Driving Under Suspension) arrests; six drug citations; one reckless driving arrest; five driving without insurance citations; one seat belt citation; and one open container citation. In addition, 30 warnings were issued during the saturation patrol. One of the DUS drivers had two warrants for his arrest.

NARRATIVE: On Saturday, May 18, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) along with the Cass County Sheriff's Office and the Fargo Police Department, 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.

The sobriety checkpoint and saturation event are part of the NDHP's ongoing efforts to maintain roadway safety and encourage all motorists to make responsible driving decisions. Impaired drivers threaten the safety of anyone on the roadways, including motorists, passengers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians, and work crews.

Through May 9 of this year, there have been eighteen fatal crashes on North Dakota roads and nearly 30 percent involved alcohol use. NDHP Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe stated, "It's a great time to be outside and enjoy golfing, time at the lake, get-togethers for weddings, graduations, or family celebrations. If any activities involve alcohol, make the responsible decision to designate a sober driver or plan for a rideshare home."

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 never driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substances that can compromise your driving capabilities and decision-making abilities.

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