

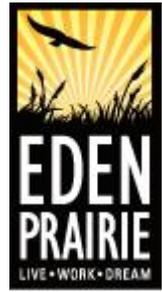
NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts:

Joyce Lorenz
Communications Manager
952-949-8554

Katie Beal
Senior Communications Coordinator
952-949-8526



OFF: 952 949 8300
FAX: 952 949 8390
TDD: 952 949 8399

8080 Mitchell Rd
Eden Prairie, MN
55344-4485

edenprairie.org

EDEN PRAIRIE AND BLOOMINGTON POLICE PLAN EXTRA DWI ENFORCEMENT THROUGH LABOR DAY

Eden Prairie, Minn. — Eden Prairie and Bloomington Police plan to increase DWI patrols through Labor Day, as part of a statewide impaired driving enforcement sweep, coordinated by the state of Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS).

DPS reports that enhanced DWI enforcement campaigns factored into the state tallying a record-low number of alcohol-related deaths in 2008. Last year, 163 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes in Minnesota. Despite the drop in deaths, DPS reports alcohol-related crashes still accounted for more than one-third of all deaths. In the last three years, 2006–2008, 519 motorists were killed and another 1,159 motorists were seriously injured in alcohol-related crashes statewide. During that same time period 116,515 motorists were arrested for DWI — 35,736 in 2008.

“We are serious about taking impaired drivers off the road,” said Eden Prairie Police Sergeant Pete Vosbeek. “We are reminding motorists to plan ahead for a safe ride home when celebrating over the holiday weekend, and whenever plans involve alcohol consumption.”

Officers on DWI patrols will also include extra seatbelt enforcement. As of June 9, Minnesota has a primary seat belt law that requires drivers and passengers in all seating positions — including the back seat — to be buckled up or in the correct child restraint. Law enforcement can stop motorists solely for seat belt violations, including unbelted passengers.

This enforcement and education effort is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is a component of the state’s *Toward Zero Deaths* traffic safety program. *TZD* is an interdisciplinary approach to address traffic issues regionally through enforcement, education, engineering and emergency trauma care.

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