

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 22, 2022

Cass County Sobriety Checkpoint and Saturation Patrol UPDATE

RESULTS: The NDHP and Cass County Sheriff's Office conducted a sobriety checkpoint from 9:00 pm until midnight on Saturday, Aug. 20 at the I-94 University Drive (exit 351) westbound offramp. 417 vehicles traveled through the checkpoint. Forty-seven vehicles were screened for impairment/violations and resulted in 4 DUI arrests; 8 drug violation citations; 4 minor-in-consumption/in-possession violations; 7 open container citations; 3 Driving Under Suspension citations; and 6 other non-criminal citations. Essentia Health Staff participated at the checkpoint and provided cookies to drivers as well as distributed literature on safe driving choices.

NDHP conducted saturation patrols Friday, Aug. 19 through Sunday, Aug. 21. These patrol efforts resulted in 6 DUI arrests and 1 drug violation citation.

NARRATIVE: On Saturday, August 20, the North Dakota Highway Patrol and Cass County Sheriff's Office will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in Cass County. Essentia Health nursing staff will be participating and providing information to drivers about the risks of driving while under the influence. Saturation patrols will be conducted in Cass County Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21.

The purpose of these enforcement efforts is to deter impaired driving and to remove impaired drivers from the road. As of August 15, 2022, there have been 52 fatalities on North Dakota roadways. Nine of the fatalities have been related to crashes involving alcohol.

Sgt. Jed Dahnke, NDHP Southeast Regional Sergeant stated, "We are seeing progress in lowering alcohol-related fatal crashes, but they are still happening. Every impaired driver taken off the road can save a life. 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 reminds all motorists, motorcycle drivers, OHV drivers, and bicyclists to share the road, drive distraction-free, and always make the responsible choice to drive sober as we work together to make Vision Zero a reality.



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