



Governor Mark Dayton Building a Better Minnesota

SAFETY

People in Minnesota are Safe

One of the most important functions of state government is working to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Minnesotans. Our quality of life depends on the safety of our homes and communities. Governor Dayton is committed to improving safety on our roadways, in our workplaces, and in our neighborhoods. Governor Dayton is working to reduce the incidence of violent crime in our communities, keep drunk drivers off the road, and ensure that emergency personnel have the tools they need to do their jobs effectively.



In the Spotlight Keeping Drunk Drivers Off the Road

The Department of Public Safety has launched several new programs to keep drunk drivers off the road in Minnesota.

The Triple Check program is designed to ensure that Minnesota does not issue a license to anyone with an active record of drunk driving in other states. To date, the program has prevented almost 15,000 drunk drivers from unlawfully obtaining a driver's license in Minnesota.

The Ignition Interlock program requires convicted drunk drivers to prove they are sober with a breath test before their car will start. Nearly 2,900 drunk drivers are currently enrolled in Ignition Interlock, with 289 drivers successfully completing the program.

Delivering Results

- **Modernizing the 911 System.** Upgraded a 40 year-old, antiquated 911 system into a state-of-the-art system that connects all 911 call centers statewide, providing better, more reliable service to Minnesotans.
- **Improving the Use of Seatbelts.** Minnesotans are wearing seatbelts at a higher rate than at any time in history, with 94% of front seat passengers wearing their seatbelts.
- **Keeping State Troopers on Patrol.** Reduced the amount of time it takes Troopers to process paperwork for a single DWI arrest from 75 minutes to just 17 minutes, allowing for an additional hour on patrol for every DWI.
- **Improving Communication During a Disaster.** Implemented a new state-of-the-art communication system to ensure that law enforcement and first responder personnel can effectively respond to a disaster.
- **Making Our Roads Safer.** Reduced traffic fatalities by 44% over the last decade; 2011 marked the fewest traffic fatalities in Minnesota since 1944.
- **Improving Workplace Safety.** Changed 200 unsafe practices or conditions in high-risk workplaces that could have resulted in serious injuries or deaths. Established the nation's first safety standards for window washers.
- **Keeping Young Workers Safe.** Taught over 450 young workers in 2012 the value of workplace safety – a 71% participation increase in one year.
- **Preparing for Biological Terrorism.** Held the nation's first Postal Plan drill with Minneapolis and St. Paul postal volunteers and police to distribute medications door-to-door, achieving a 99% success rate.
- **Keeping People Warm.** Provided energy assistance to 335,000 low-income households, helping keep the heat on during the winter for seniors, persons with disabilities, and families with young children.
- **Fighting Fires with Data.** Over 98% of Minnesota fire departments reported incident data to the Fire Incident Reporting System, increasing our capacity to design effective fire prevention strategies.
- **Removing Mercury-Tainted Skin Products.** Identified significant amounts of mercury in skin lightening products being sold in Minnesota and worked to remove those products from store shelves.