



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Memorial Day Weekend: Road Safety

As Memorial Day weekend approaches, many of us are gearing up for trips to visit family, enjoy the outdoors, or just take a well-deserved break. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office wants to remind everyone that while we're all looking forward to the holiday, our safety on the roads is something we all share responsibility for.

With more cars on the road, the chance of accidents increases. Memorial Day weekend sees more traffic fatalities than a typical weekend, making it one of the most dangerous times to be on the road, and is the reason it is known as part of the "100 deadliest days". (wicsondindot.gov) The National Safety Council estimates between 378-514 people will die across the country as a result of traffic deaths this holiday weekend! (nsc.org)

DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY!

The good news is that much of the tragedy can be avoided when we make a few simple choices.

- **Slow Down- Speeding** increases the risk of accidents and reduces your ability to react in time. Always drive within the speed limit and adjust for road conditions. In 2024, Dodge County had 53 injury crashes involving speeding, with 4 fatalities related to speed.
- **Drive sober-** Driving buzzed, or under the influence of a controlled substance lowers inhibitions, slows reaction times, and can cause people to take risks they wouldn't normally take. In 2024, Dodge County had 45 injury crashes involving impairment, with 3 fatalities related to impaired driving.
- **Wear a seatbelt-** Seat belts save lives. We must ensure all passengers are properly restrained, regardless of their seating position. In 2024, Dodge County had 27 injury crashes involving failure to wear seatbelts and other occupant protection devices, with 9 fatalities related to seatbelt use.

- Avoid Distractions- We must put down our electronic devices- the text can wait until we are able to stop and safely read it. In 2024, Dodge County had 37 injury crashes involving a distracted driver, with 3 fatalities related to distracted driving.

The sheriff's office alone cannot reduce crashes, but it is a partnership with the community. We ask everyone to protect themselves, their families and the public by following these simple suggestions. Help us to make this holiday weekend a safe and enjoyable experience in Dodge County.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

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