



Saint Louis County

Sheriff's Office • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 103 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2340 • Fax: (218) 726-2171 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Ross Litman
Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:
May 5, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT: Sgt. John Backman
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office
(218) 748-7578

352 UNBELTED MOTORISTS KILLED ON MINNESOTA ROADS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

Nearly 41 percent of all motorists killed in traffic crashes on Minnesota roads during the last three years (2010-2012) were not buckled up, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. This statistic is another alert for motorists to buckle up every seat, every time.

“We are still seeing a large number of people who don’t wear their seat belt or don’t buckle up in the back seat,” says Sgt. John Backman from St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office. “Many of the serious injuries and deaths we see resulting from a crash can be prevented by simply wearing a seat belt—it’s the best defense in a vehicle in the case of a crash.”

Often people have questions about booster seats. Minnesota statute requires children under age 8 to ride in a federally approved car seat or booster, unless the child is 4 feet 9 inches or taller. Children should start riding in a booster upon outgrowing a forward-facing restraint. Boosters lift a child up so adult seat belts fit children properly. A child should remain in a booster until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least age 8.

Across the Iron Range during the month of May there will be increased law enforcement patrols targeting lack of compliance with the seatbelt and childseat/booster laws. Although there are far worse consequences for not wearing a seatbelt, the officers out there working those shifts will be writing tickets to unbelted occupants of vehicles.

###