

## Get the Facts: Speed Kills

### In a Nutshell

Minnesota is experiencing an epidemic of excessive speed on its roads, often with tragic consequences. We all need to drive smart and slow down.

### What should I know about excessive speed?

Whether it takes place on an interstate, a state or county highway, your neighborhood street or in the communities you travel through, speeding risks the lives of others. Reducing your speed gives you more vehicle control, more time to respond to any road situations and decreases the severity of impact during a crash. All those add up to making the road safer for everyone.

### What can I do about speeders?

*In 2021, the Minnesota State Patrol issued 1,249 speeding tickets for speeds of 100 mph or more, compared with 1,080 in 2020 and 533 tickets for those excessive speeds in 2019.*

Speeding behavior and aggressive drivers may not only affect the speeder — it can also affect other drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Here are some tips when you encounter speeders on the road:

- If you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass, move over and let them by.
- Give speeding drivers plenty of space. Speeding drivers may lose control of their vehicle more easily.
- Adjust your driving accordingly. Speeding is tied to aggressive driving. If a speeding driver is tailgating you or trying to engage you in risky driving, use judgment to safely steer your vehicle out of the way.
- Call the police if you believe a driver is following or harassing you.

### Did you know...

- Speeding was a factor about a third of all traffic fatalities in 2020. A crash is considered speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense or if racing, driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the posted speed limit was indicated as a contributing factor in the crash.
- Excessive speeds are deadly. Initial Minnesota numbers were 488 traffic fatalities in 2021 — the most since 2007 when 510 people died. A 100-day period in 2021 accounted for 167 of those fatalities.



- The faster you drive, the longer it takes to stop:
  - At 40 mph, braking distance is 79 feet, with total stopping distance with reaction time 118 feet
  - At 60 mph, braking distance is 180 feet, with total stopping distance with reaction time 240 feet
  - At 80 mph, braking distance is 315 feet, with total stopping distance with reaction time 394 feet
  - At 100 mph, braking distance is 499 feet, with total stopping distance with reaction time 597 feet.
- Speeding reduces the ability of road safety structures (such as guardrails, impact attenuators, crash cushions, median dividers, and concrete barriers) to protect you in a crash.
- Speeding is a costly choice. It varies by county, but traveling 10 mph over the limit typically costs a driver more than \$110 with court fees and double that for going over 20 mph. Those who get cited for going 100 mph or more can lose their license for six months.

**Sources:**

Minnesota Department of Public Safety,  
Office of Traffic Safety  
National Safety Council

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

