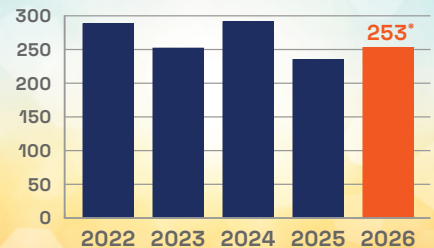


Feels Like Back-to-School Weather

Summer flew by and students are returning to school. Beyond backpacks, supplies and schedules, the main priority for all of us is making sure our young ones get to and from school, childcare and activities safely.

We've dedicated this issue to the latest kid-related challenges, including the growing risks of e-bikes and e-scooters, distracted driving at school drop off/pick up, and incorrect car/booster seat use. You'll find links to educational tools for Child Passenger Safety Week, which kicks off on Sept. 20 and concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on Sept. 26. In this month's [blog](#), Lisa Kons shares both the encouraging and distressing 2026 Minnesota crash fatality data. Crash-related deaths, notably those involving pedestrians and motorcycles, are up year-to-date after a sizable downturn in 2025.

MINNESOTA TRAFFIC FATALITIES
January 1 – August 31



Source: MN Dept. of Public Safety

*Preliminary

Buying an E-bike or E-scooter?

Know the rules. Ride responsibly. Sales of e-bikes/e-scooters are on the rise, and so are injuries. Minnesota has seen an 800% surge in e-bike/e-scooter hospital admissions since 2023. Regions Hospital in St. Paul is reporting trauma patterns that more closely resemble motorcycle accidents than traditional bicycle crashes.

Before purchasing an e-bike or e-scooter for the young people in your life, know the rules for responsible riding in Minnesota. Riders must follow the same traffic laws as bicyclists (Stat. 169.222).

Close out Summer with a Sober Ride

With Memorial Day the earliest possible date this year, and Labor Day on the latest date, revelers have had more days to enjoy the summer season — turning this year into the 106 Deadliest Days on the Road.

The National Highway Transportation Administration (NHTSA) will remind drivers this Labor Day weekend that law enforcement is on the watch for impaired driving — whether by alcohol, marijuana, or other substances. Three national enforcement campaigns will run through September 7. Get the word out before summer ends with these NHTSA campaign materials that reach the media and your community:



- [Drive High, Get a DUI](#)
Drug-Impaired Driving
- [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)
Drunk Driving
- [Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)
Drunk Driving: Motorcycles



E-bike Legal Age:
15+ years old

E-scooter Legal Age:
12+ years old

Helmet required for riders under age 18.

View, download, and share our new [E-bike Safety Flyer!](#)



Buckle Up — Every Trip, Every Ride!

Child Passenger Safety Week: September 20 – 26, 2026

Vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children nationwide. During CPS Week, help raise awareness about the life-saving importance of properly selecting and using car seats, booster seats and seat belts for children. The updated [Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law](#) reflects best practice recommendations to ensure all children are safely secured in their car/booster seats for as long as possible. Find resources at:

- [AAA & NSC Social Media Toolkit](#): graphics and messaging in both English and Spanish.
- [BuckleUpMN.org](#): up-to-date information on car/booster seat and seat belt safety.
- [National CPS Board Social Media Toolkit](#): graphics and messaging.
- [NHTSA CPS Week Campaign](#): a variety of tools, graphics and videos.

Safe Back-to-School Drop offs and Pick ups: school means more hectic mornings and afternoons, and an increase in crash fatalities largely due to distracted driving. According to studies by [NHTSA](#) and [CM Telematics](#), both distraction and fatalities peak during the morning drop off window of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. View both reports for more data and insights.



[MN Car Seat & Booster Seat Checkup Events](#)

Back-to-School Safety Tips

Minnesota students are heading back to class and that means it's time to increase traffic safety efforts for everyone sharing the road — vehicles, school buses, bicyclists and pedestrians. Make the upcoming school year safer with these tips and resources:



BUCKLE UP MN

- [A Mother's Legacy: Morgan Grunewald's Car Seat Story](#)
- [Choosing a Compliant Car Seat for Your Child](#)
- [Resource Sheet for Parents and Caregivers](#)

DRIVE SAFE MN

- [Be a Street Savvy Pedestrian](#)
- [Bicycle Safety and Helmet Best Practices](#)
- [E-bike/E-scooter Safety](#)
- [Travel Safe School Days](#)
- [Young Drivers on the Road](#)

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

- [Back to School Checklist](#)
- [Back to School Means Sharing the Road](#)
- [Head Up, Phone Down When Headed Back to School](#)



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