

MN Crash



Reduction Project



Mille lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren and Benton County Sheriff Troy Heck working with Milaca Police Chief Todd Quaintance, Foley Police Chief Katie McMillin and the Minnesota State Patrol have begun work focused on fatal and serious injury crash reduction efforts on Hwy 23 between Foley and Milaca in Benton/Mille Lacs County.

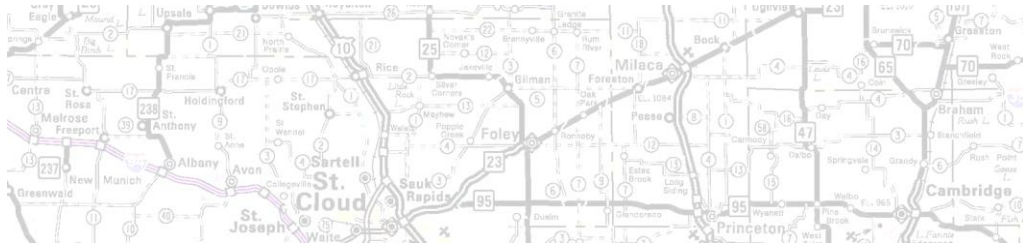
Mille lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren says, “Years of data show that over half of all injury/fatal crashes along this stretch of roadway are due in part to intersection with stop sign related violations. In addition, the spike in crashes appears to concentrate at work commuter times, in the early morning and early afternoon hours.”

These fatal and serious crashes along the Highway 23 corridor have not gone unnoticed by local law enforcement. Recently, staff from the involved sheriff’s offices, police departments, and state patrol districts all met in Milaca to implement ways to reduce fatal and serious accidents on this roadway. It is believed that awareness of the issue, education on crash reduction strategies, public participation, and increased enforcement will reduce or eliminate future fatal and serious crashes along this stretch of roadway. This will be a year-long effort on the part of these law enforcement partners to reduce or eliminate serious and fatal crashes on Hwy 23 between Foley and Milaca.

Foley Police Chief Katie McMillin says, “We believe that through high visible saturations, community contacts, and greater public awareness we will reduce fatal crashes on Hwy 23.”

The allied area law enforcement partners are going to be working together over the coming months to have a greater presence on Hwy 23. Law enforcement efforts will focus on enforcement of laws related to distracted driving, seat belts, stop signs, speed limits, and impaired driving.

Milaca Police Chief Todd Quaintance says, “I have no doubt our cooperative effort will be effective in changing driver behavior and saving lives on Hwy 23.”



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Benton County Sheriff Troy Heck says, “Our success in this effort is not measured by the number of citations we issue or arrests we make. Our success is in preventing the types of destructive driving decisions that affect the safety of all the individuals and families who travel this roadway. We are asking motorists to make smart choices each and every time they get in a vehicle.”