

Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is launching a national high-visibility enforcement effort, April 1-8, 2024, to deter distracted driving. Law enforcement officers nationwide will work together to enforce texting and distracted-driving laws and remind drivers: Put the Phone Away or Pay. This effort comes during April, which is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. According to Minnesota Crash Data, in 2023 there were 3,851 crashes, 1,745 injuries, and 17 fatalities that involved distracted drivers.

"Distracted driving is a leading cause of vehicle crashes on our nation's roads, and most of this distraction can be attributed to cell phone use," said Sergeant Allen Mekash, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office. "People know using their phone while driving is dangerous and often illegal, but they do it anyway, and put themselves and others at risk. Drivers will see increased law enforcement efforts, as officers will be stopping and ticketing anyone who is caught texting and driving," he said.

Violating Minnesota's distracted driving laws can cost between \$120 and \$300.

>>Statewide Distracted Driving Campaign Begins in Minnesota

(Golden Valley, MN) -- A month-long statewide crackdown on distracted driving begins today (Mon) in Minnesota. Mike Hanson with the Office of Traffic Safety says somewhere between 25 and 30 people a year are still being killed on Minnesota roads by a completely preventable act, which is somebody distracted behind the wheel. Hanson says distracted driving contributed to nearly 30,000 crashes in Minnesota from 2019-2023. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

>>2 Minnesota Players Win \$50k in Saturday's Powerball Drawing

(Roseville, MN) -- Two players in Minnesota won 50 thousand dollars in Saturday night's Powerball drawing, but nobody claimed the big jackpot. The Minnesota Lottery says the 50-thousand-dollar tickets were sold at a Kwik Trip in Chanhassen and a Cub Foods store in Blaine. The jackpot climbs to 975 million dollars for tonight's (Mon) drawing. There hasn't been a grand prize winner in the Powerball since January 1st.

>>Another Committee Hearing on Sports Betting Bill in Minnesota House

(St. Paul, MN) -- There's another hearing in the Minnesota House Wednesday on a bill that would legalize sports betting on a mobile app and at 11 tribal casinos in the state. Commerce Committee Chair Zack Stephenson of Coon Rapids says a new provision would create a regulatory authority structure for daily fantasy sports betting. Stephenson's amendment also makes adjustments for charitable gaming which he says could result in 40 million dollars in annual tax relief for pull-tab operators. The state's horse tracks oppose the bill.

>>Walz, Colonel Langer to Push for new State Patrol Headquarters

(St. Paul, MN) -- Governor Tim Walz, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan and Colonel Matt Langer plan to highlight the need for a new Minnesota State Patrol headquarters today (Mon 1:30pm) in the east metro. The governor's infrastructure plan includes 22 million dollars to acquire land and design for a new headquarters. Officials say the new location will streamline and improve public safety services across the state. Colonel Langer is leaving the State Patrol tomorrow (Tues) after 25 years to take a position with the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

MnDOT Announces Over \$17M In Road Projects

(St. Paul, MN) -- Governor Walz says new transportation infrastructure funding will help support over two thousand jobs across Minnesota. The governor joined state transportation officials Wednesday to announce over 17 million dollars in new funding for infrastructure projects. The funding is being provided through the state's Transportation Economic Development programs. Walz said the new projects will support business growth while improving the safety and efficiency of Minnesota's transportation system.

>>\$1.2M settlement after MN State Patrol troopers injured two L-A journalists during Floyd riots

****MEDIA REFERENCE - 2ND LINE****

(St. Paul, MN) -- Two Los Angeles Times journalists injured by Minnesota State Patrol troopers during the George Floyd riots have settled a federal lawsuit against the state for 1.2 million dollars. Governor Tim Walz exempted media from a nighttime curfew, but the Star Tribune reports officers advanced on a group displaying press credentials, backed them into a corner and fired rubber bullets and pepper spray. One of the L-A Times reporters suffered a corneal abrasion and chemical burns on her eye and skin. The other was bloodied and bruised from being shot at least five times in the leg with projectiles and a tear-gas canister. The State Patrol in the settlement did not admit wrongdoing.

>>Uber Takes New Effort to #BringRidesBack to Minneapolis During Rideshare Ordinance Battle

(Minneapolis, MN) -- Uber has taken another step aiming to pressure Twin Cities residents and Minnesota legislators to keep the rideshare app in Minneapolis by launching a new campaign, #BringRidesBack. They also launched a website, BringRideBack.com, which allows riders to send emails to their lawmakers, asking them to move forward with legislation that will keep Uber in Minneapolis. This comes after Uber and Lyft both threatened to leave the market if a Minneapolis ordinance takes effect May 1st to increase minimum wages for rideshare drivers.

Governor Tim Walz is asking the legislature to approve just under one billion dollars (982 million) for infrastructure projects in 2024:

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[bwbonding1435.mp3] :37 "SOC"

(880 million dollars would be in state borrowing and about 100 million dollars from other sources. Walz proposes about one-fourth of the money go for water and transportation infrastructure, including lead pipe replacement and PFAS removal. There's funding to improve facilities for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, planning for a State Patrol headquarters, and more programs in Minnesota prisons. There's money to develop multifamily housing for those who are struggling, and over 16 million dollars to update the Minneapolis Veterans Home. And nearly half the money Walz is requesting would be to maintain and renew public buildings -- including over 200 million for the U-of-M and the Minnesota State system. BW reporting.)

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>>Federal Rule Calls for Ending Humorous Electronic Highway Signs

(St. Paul, MN) -- Funny messages and pop culture references on electronic highway and freeway signs will be going away in 2026. A rule change in the new manual released by the U-S Highway Administration says signs "should not be used to display a traffic safety message if doing so could adversely affect respect for the sign." This includes messages with obscure or secondary meanings such as pop culture references, or anything humorous. But MnDOT states it is "aware of the new federal guidelines, but don't anticipate any changes to way they share creative highway safety messages with the public that helps improve safety on Minnesota roadways."

>>US Pond Hockey Championships Set to Begin Thursday

(Minneapolis, MN) -- Officials remain optimistic that the U-S. Pond Hockey Championships in Minneapolis will begin on time. The event at Lake Nokomis is set to kick off tomorrow(Thurs). Organizers plan to map the entire lake to make sure that the ice is thick enough to support players safely. Last year's tournament drew three-thousand players, and organizers say they will put safety first during the ten-day event.

One Dead in Head-On Collision in Douglas County

(Douglas County, MN) -- A woman is dead after a head-on collision this morning (TUES) in Douglas County. Deputies report a car driven by a 54-year-old woman from Alexandria crossed the center line, colliding with a southbound truck. The driver of the truck, also from Alexandria, was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

>ND Gov. Burgum not running for re-election, says it's too early to speculate on whether he'll be in Trump administration

(Bismarck, ND) -- North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, who announced today (Mon) he's *not* running for a third term, says it's too early to speculate whether he may be part of a second Trump administration. Burgum says, "President Trump would have to win the nomination and he'd have to win a tough election in the fall. And then of course that's all up to the president: The president gets to decide on who's his running mate and who's his cabinet team, and I'm sure that he'll pick an excellent cabinet and an excellent running mate at the time of his choosing." Trump said during his Iowa caucus victory speech that he hopes he's going to be able to call on Burgum to be "a very important piece of the administration." Burgum dropped out of the race for the G-O-P presidential nomination in early December and endorsed Trump the weekend before the Iowa caucuses.

>>Eight MN Cities Awarded Active Transportation Grants

(St. Paul, MN) -- Eight Minnesota cities have been awarded Active Transportation Planning Assistance grants to reduce pollution, curb traffic, and increase residents' health and safety. Funded by MN Legislature, the grants cover around \$100,000 of technical assistance from a consultant to create more walking and biking destinations in communities. Grant recipients include Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Paul, Coon Rapids, Roseville, Alexandria, St. Peter, and Cannon Falls.

>>Sen. Fateh, Rep. Omar Introduce People Over Parking Act

(St. Paul, MN) -- Senator Omar Fateh (FAH-tay) and Representative Ilhan Omar introduced the People Over Parking Act today (TUES), legislation eliminating minimum parking requirements for real estate development throughout Minnesota. Fateh says a minimum parking requirement means whenever a new building is built or redeveloped, they are forced to build a certain number of parking spots, which he calls "completely arbitrary." He says, "For example, for Carver, in every bowling lane that a bowling center has, they have to have two parking spots. In Anoka for every bowling lane, they have to have seven parking spots. *laughter* ... Are bowlers driving three and a half times more in Anoka as in Carver? No!" Fateh says the mandates are especially burdensome to renters, as 67% of Minnesota renter households have zero to one car, but most cities in the state mandate 1-and-a-half to two-and-a-half spots per unit.

>>MN Secures \$1B in Federal Funding to Replace Blatnik Bridge

(Duluth, MN) – Minnesota has secured one billion dollars in federal funding to replace the aging Blatnik (BLOT-nick) Bridge between Duluth and Superior, Wisconsin -- a topic that likely will come up when Governor Tim Walz visits Duluth today (1030am) to spotlight his request to the Minnesota Legislature for other infrastructure projects around the state. MN-DOT says federal funding approval for the Blatnik allows an accelerated schedule: design work starting this year and construction beginning as early as 2025, with traffic detoured when that ramps up. Democrats accuse 8th District Republican Congressman Pete Stauber of trying to take credit for the bridge that he doesn't deserve. Stauber says he's consistently advocated for the funds, sending several letters to the U-S transportation secretary and President Joe Biden. But Minnesota DFL Party Chairman Ken Martin says Stauber voted against the major Infrastructure Package that's making the bridge replacement possible.

>>Sun Country Adding Direct Flight from MSP to Cleveland

(Bloomington, MN) -- Sun Country Airlines is adding nonstop service from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport to a new city. The Minnesota-based airline will be flying direct to Cleveland, Ohio beginning in May four times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday through Labor Day weekend. The announcement comes after Frontier Airlines announced this week it was adding five new direct flights out of M-S-P including its own flights to Cleveland.

>>Kickoff to Summer at the Fair Returns Memorial Day Weekend

(Falcon Heights, MN) -- The Minnesota State Fair is bringing back its Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event over Memorial Day weekend. Officials say there will be nearly 40 food vendors, 20 Minnesota merchants, music, entertainment, rides on the Giant Slide, and the Milk Run 5K Race. And parking is free. The event runs Thursday May 23rd through Sunday May 26th. Tickets will go on sale in early April.

>>Minor Injuries Reported in Moorhead School Bus Crash

(Moorhead, MN) -- Some scrapes and bruises but no serious injuries when one school bus rear-ended another late Thursday afternoon in Moorhead. Public Schools Superintendent Brandon Lunak says they were taking kids home from Horizon Middle School on the last route of the day when it happened. He says if both buses were full, there could have been around 100 students on them. Lunak says they'll review exactly what happened and determine next steps.

>>State Awards \$1.5 Million for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

(St. Paul, MN) -- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety is awarding one-and-a-half-million dollars in grants for school bus stop arm camera systems. Sixteen schools and bus companies across Minnesota are getting funding in this round of grants. Office of Traffic Safety Director Mike Hanson says, "The stop arm cameras are a welcome relief for bus drivers, parents, students and law enforcement in educating motorists, holding violators accountable and changing dangerous driving behaviors." Nearly seven thousand school buses statewide have been equipped with camera systems through the grant program.

>>U of M Study Finds Ethanol Generated \$6.6 Billion in Economic Activity

(Minneapolis, MN) -- A new U of M Extension study finds that ethanol is a major contributor to the state's economy. Brian Werner of the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association says the ethanol industry generated six-point-six-billion dollars of economic activity, supported over 20 thousand jobs, provided one-point-three billion in income to Minnesota residents, and contributed two-point-five billion to the state's G-D-P." Werner says ethanol producers paid 182 million dollars in state and local taxes in 2023. He notes that it is also five to 20 cents cheaper per gallon than regular gasoline.

>>MSP and Duluth Airports Awarded Total of \$30 Million in Federal Funds

(Washington, DC) -- Minneapolis-St. Paul International and Duluth International Airport are getting millions in federal infrastructure funding for major projects. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar announced that M-S-P will receive 20 million dollars to expand and add two new gates to Terminal 2. The Duluth airport was awarded a ten-million-dollar grant for its traffic control tower re-location project. The Two Harbors Helgeson Municipal Airport in Lake County will receive a more than one million dollars to build a new general aviation terminal.

>>Gov. Walz Concerned Next Farm Bill Won't be Completed for a While

(Undated) – Minnesota Governor and former House Agriculture Committee member Tim Walz is concerned the next farm bill won't be completed soon. Walz worked on three farm bills during his time in Congress and says negotiators are missing a champion like Collin Peterson to get the bill across the finish line. Walz recently hosted USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack during a visit to Minnesota and says Vilsack could not provide much insight into how farm bill negotiations are going.

>>Duluth Airport Receives \$10M For Airport Tower Replacement

(Duluth, MN) -- The Duluth International Airport, home to one of the oldest airport towers in the United States, is set to receive a federal grant of ten million dollars to aid in the replacement of its aged tower. Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar and Republican Congressman Pete Stauber announced the news. The new project is estimated to cost more than 65 million dollars. Additionally, the Two Harbors Helgeson Municipal Airport located in Lake County will receive a grant of over one million dollars from the U.S. Department of Transportation to build a new general aviation terminal.

>>Fundraiser for Fallen Burnsville EMT Firefighter Finseth Tops \$75 K

(Rochester, MN) -- Donations continue to pour in for the family of fallen Burnsville firefighter-paramedic Adam Finseth. A GoFundMe page with a goal of 25 thousand dollars has raised more than 75 thousand dollars. Organizer Jordan Doring says the loss of Finseth, "leaves a void that can never be filled, and our hearts ache for his family as they navigate this unimaginable grief." The 40-year-old Rochester native is survived by his wife and two children. A public memorial is planned for Finseth and fallen Burnsville Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge (ROO'-ghee) next Wednesday at Grace Church in Eden Prairie.

>>MSP Airport Wins Global Award for Best On-Time Performance

(Minneapolis, MN) -- Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is being honored globally for helping airlines and passengers get to their destination on time. M-S-P spokesman Jeff Lea says they received a major award from aviation data company Cirium (SEER' -ee -um) which monitors flights. He says it means that M-S-P was the best airport in the world for on-time performance. Lea says nearly 85 percent of flights departed on time and arrived within 15 minutes of scheduled arrival. M-S-P is the first U-S airport since Seattle in 2011 to win the global on-time performance award.

The Perham 2024 Main Street restoration project is scheduled to start in early Spring. The Perham City and Chamber are putting together a meeting entitled Navigating the Retail Roadblock. They invite you to join them for an important presentation and discussion about this topic using social media, marketing tactics and clever promotions effectively during the 2024 main street construction season. The meeting is this Wednesday February 21st at 8 a.m. at the Perham City Hall.

>>Cargill Discloses Duluth Plans But She Isn't Going Forward with Them

(Duluth, MN) -- Kathy Cargill is walking away from plans to improve the Park Point area of Duluth. Cargill bought nearly two dozen properties in that area recently but did not say anything to neighbors or city officials about what she was planning. In a Wall Street Journal interview over the weekend, Cargill said she was planning to build homes for relatives while adding a coffee shop, a sports complex, and other improvements. But she said she's now decided to drop those plans, calling the community "small-minded" and saying other places would welcome her efforts.

>>No Powerball Winner Saturday, \$50K Ticket Sold in Brainerd Lakes Area

(Roseville, MN) -- Nobody claimed the Powerball jackpot on Saturday night but a player in Minnesota won a 50-thousand-dollar prize. The Minnesota Lottery website says the ticket was purchased at Super One Foods in Baxter. Another ticket worth 50 thousand was sold at a Super One Foods in Duluth on Wednesday. Those two prizes were won after someone bought a Powerball ticket worth one million dollars in Zumbro Falls in southeastern Minnesota last Monday. The jackpot is estimated at 800 million dollars for tonight's (Mon) Powerball drawing.

>Walz Joins Groundbreaking for \$137 Million Moorhead Underpass Project

(Moorhead, MN) -- Governor Tim Walz is joining federal, state, and community leaders this morning (Sat 10:30am) to break ground on Moorhead's newest underpass project. The 134-million-dollar project will include two grade separations of 11th Street under the B-N-S-F rail lines, paving, pedestrian accessibility improvement, utility replacements, and signals.

>>Navigation Begins on Lake Superior and other Great Lakes

(Duluth, MN) -- The navigation season is now officially open on Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes. Jayson Hron (ROAN) of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority says people are excited to watch the first "salties" arrive this weekend. He says visitors from all over the world come to North America's furthest inland seaport to see those ships moving. Iron ore ships leaving the Twin Ports were expected to pass through the Soo Locks when they opened last night (Fri). Hron (ROAN) says they had a "very good" shipping season in 2023.

>>Sports betting bill moving forward in MN House, horse tracks oppose

(St. Paul, MN) -- The state's two horse tracks are speaking out against a bill that would legalize sports betting in Minnesota. Running Aces C-F-O Tracie Wilson told a House committee today (Thurs), "We know that the horse racing industry in Minnesota would be eviscerated by this legislation that unfairly picks winners and losers. Hundreds of good paying jobs and the well-being of the horse racing industry in Minnesota are on the line." Wilson says this bill gives the tribal casinos, "sports betting exclusivity for all of time." An amendment added today would also create a regulatory structure for daily fantasy sports betting. The bill is headed to the all-important Tax Committee in the Minnesota House.

>>Proposed Amtrak Routes Would Connect Twin Cities With Other Destinations

(Minneapolis, MN) -- Proposed new Amtrak passenger routes being considered in a nationwide rail study would connect the Twin Cities with more direct destinations, including Phoenix, San Antonio, and Denver. The proposed new routes would also have stops in Des Moines and Omaha as well as Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The study by the Federal Railroad Administration is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Senator Jordan Rasmusson took a significant step forward in addressing Minnesota's demand for commercial drivers on Wednesday, March 13th, as the Senate Transportation Committee heard his proposed legislation aimed at streamlining the process for obtaining a commercial driver's license (CDL).

"CDL drivers are in high demand across the state," remarked Senator Rasmusson. "Minnesota State, which has community and technical colleges in the area I represent, responded by expanding programs to help Minnesotans obtain their CDL. Last year, they had hundreds of students go through their CDL program. However, a barrier is the time it takes for students to get CDL testing."

Presently, to become a third-party CDL tester, a public higher education institution must provide a course with a minimum of 180 hours of training, a criterion that most institutions do not meet. Senator Rasmusson's bill seeks to eliminate the 180-hour training requirement while maintaining all rigorous federal and state program standards.

"State law allows a public higher education institution to offer third-party testing, but it requires that the program consist of 180 instructional hours. My legislation removes this 180-hour requirement, opening CDL testing up to any school that offers the training. This will get Minnesota students into high-demand and high-paying jobs and help our economy have the workforce needed to be successful," Senator Rasmusson concluded.

The legislation has been laid over for possible inclusion in a transportation bill package later in the session.

Uber says it will "stop operating a transportation network in the entire metro area including the airport" on May 1st and Lyft says it will be "shutting down operations in Minneapolis" -- that after the city council today (Thurs) overrode Mayor Jacob Frey's veto of an ordinance that will set minimum pay for rideshare drivers effective May 1st. Minneapolis City Council President Elliot Payne:

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[trveto1a.mp3] :13 "RESIDENTS IN MINNEAPOLIS"

(Put the will of the people before the corporations and this is really a signal to the mayor that it's time to put that veto pen down and roll up his sleeves and start working with the city council so that we can deliver benefits for our residents in Minneapolis)

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Mayor Frey (FRY) says "our whole state needs to be prepared" -- drivers as well as riders:

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[bwuber41.mp3] :08 "LOSE YOUR JOB ENTIRELY"

"Everyone wants to see Uber and Lyft drivers get paid more, but getting a raise doesn't do a whole lot of good if you lose your job entirely."

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Frey says if Uber and Lyft leave, options are "not plentiful" to replace rideshare services.

As part of MnDOT's Minnesota Highway Freight Program, it was announced on Thursday (March 14th) that 2.25 million dollars will be going towards a snow fence on I-94 near Rothsay. That is one of just fifteen projects that were selected to receive a total of \$81.5 million in funding, meant to improve freight mobility, safety, intermodal connections, and first and last-mile freight throughout Minnesota. These 15 projects selected are part of the third round of targeted freight funding offered through the competitive Minnesota Highway Freight Program. This round of funding will be applied to projects programmed in state fiscal years 2026–28.

>>First Towboat Marks Start of Navigation Season on Mississippi River

(Hastings, MN) -- The navigation season is now open on the Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The U-S Army Corps of Engineers says the Motor Vessel Joseph Patrick Eckstein with 12 barges passed through Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings Sunday en route to St. Paul. There was no ice for the towboats to break through at Lake Pepin this year. The first tow arrived on March 12th last year and the average start of the shipping season is March 22nd. All the locks are now open to commercial and recreational boats on the Upper Mississippi. Officials say four locks and dams were closed for maintenance this winter and that work was completed on Saturday.

>>State of Minnesota Investing \$35 Million to Modernize Boat Launches

(St. Paul, MN) -- Minnesota is investing 35 million dollars to revamp more than 40 public boat accesses across the state. The D-N-R's Nancy Stewart says they're picking some of the busy sites, the ones most in need, and are going to modernize and bring them up to more modern standards. She says the upgrades include wider driving lanes, longer parking stalls, boat ramps that go farther in the water, accessibility requirements and some shoreline restoration. The state plans to spend around 30 million dollars on larger-scale projects and five million on smaller projects.

Spring Weight Restrictions on Otter Tail County Highways will begin at midnight on March 1st. Restrictions are in effect until the signs are removed. An image of the map showcasing the weight limits can be found on KBRF Radio.com. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Otter Tail County Highway Department at 218-998-8470.

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. –On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Hansel Lake Rest Area on westbound Interstate 94 near Fergus Falls will temporarily close from approximately 8 a.m. to noon, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The parking lot and building will be closed during this time, as the entrance into the rest area will be blocked while maintenance crews make repairs to the pavement. The rest area will reopen when the repairs are completed.

Today (WED) is Minnesota's annual Winter Walk to School Day.

MnDOT's Joe Palmersheim tells drivers...

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[awwinterwalkday2.mp3] :13 (WALK TO SCHOOL)

"Be aware that younger students are going to be walking around and keep an eye out for crossing guards and signals that are around, and just keep in mind that there's going to be more kids than usual who are using the local infrastructure to walk to school."

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Palmersheim says the day encourages parents to consider the walkability and bike-ability of their neighborhoods and for students to celebrate walking to school in the winter

Prescribed burns planned for today on Hwy 59 near Elizabeth
Work on Hwy 10 near Perham and New York Mills postponed

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation has postponed the prescribed burns on Highway 10 near Perham and New York Mills. **Instead, crews will be conducting prescribed burns along Highway 59 near Elizabeth today, Feb. 26, starting at 10 a.m.**

Traffic will be directed to slow down in the area, but all roads will remain open. Motorists will encounter signs as they approach the burn areas warning of the potential of smoke. Motorists should be attentive, obey traffic control and watch for the burn crews, who are monitoring these efforts.

Prescribed burns are scheduled during optimal weather conditions to ensure safety and effectiveness. There is no need to report fires that are attended by a burn crew or when “Controlled Burn Ahead” signs are placed beside the road.

Healthy roadside vegetation is necessary to prevent weed infestations, control erosion, protect water quality and keep roadways safe. Fire is an important aspect of vegetation management because it enhances native plant communities and stimulates growth. For more information on MnDOT’s prescribed fire vegetation management program, visit www.mndot.gov/roadsides/vegetation/fire.html.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slowdown in [work zones](#) and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be conducting prescribed burns later today along Highway 10 in areas east of Perham and near New York Mills, weather permitting. Traffic will be directed to slow down in the area, but all roads will remain open. Motorists will encounter signs as they approach the burn areas warning of the potential of smoke. Motorists should be attentive, obey traffic control and watch for the burn crews, who are monitoring these efforts. Prescribed burns are scheduled during optimal weather conditions to ensure safety and effectiveness. There is no need to report fires that are attended by a burn crew or when "Controlled Burn Ahead" signs are placed beside the road. Healthy roadside vegetation is necessary to prevent weed infestations, control erosion, protect water quality and keep roadways safe. Fire is an important aspect of vegetation management because it enhances native plant communities and stimulates growth.