

SRO CORNER



Spring is approaching, fuel is cheaper again and prom is around the corner. All of this means that more teens are on the road. One of the primary goals of the Fairmont Police Department School Resource Office is to help educate teens and adults to prevent teen traffic deaths. Please help us in this effort. Talk to your teens about your expectations of them when they drive or ride in a vehicle. Encourage and require your teens to buckle up. Model the behavior you are teaching when they are in a vehicle with you.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the leading cause of death for Minnesota's 15- to 17-year-olds is traffic crashes. From 1999 to 2003, Minnesota traffic crashes took 236 teen lives — eclipsing the combined death total of the next four leading causes of death for teens. The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety states that more than half of Minnesota teens killed in traffic crashes are unbelted. Teens, young males, and residents in greater Minnesota (areas like Martin County and Fairmont) represent more than two thirds of 2006 fatalities on Minnesota roads. Seat belts restrain vehicle occupants in a crash within the vehicles designed protective space, giving them room to live. Let's **SPEAK UP** to our teens and encourage them to buckle up. Let's encourage our teens to **SPEAK UP** to their friends and do the same.

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