



## MINNESOTA SAFETY COUNCIL



Chapter of the National Safety Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Safety matters – especially in uncertain times**

***Minnesota Safety Council and National Safety Council  
partner to deliver National Safety Month resources***

St. Paul, Minn. (June 16, 2020) – Whether employees are back in their normal workplaces or doing their jobs from home, the Minnesota Safety Council says it's important to remember that safety always matters.

The state's leading safety organization has teamed up with the National Safety Council to mark National Safety Month in June to elevate awareness of critical safety issues on the job, on the road and in the home.

"The past several months have been drastically different from anything we've ever experienced," said Paul Aasen, president, Minnesota Safety Council. "Many of us have changed our work routines, are experiencing stress and, as a result, we may be short-changing safety."

Aasen said COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions significantly reduced traffic volumes on Minnesota roads by nearly one-third for several months, but negatively affected drivers' habits as average highway speeds increased dramatically. The Minnesota State Police cited 232 drivers for exceeding 100 miles per hour between April 1 and May 21, a 149% increase over the same period in 2019. From March 16 through April 29, 42 people died in fatal crashes, compared with 29 a year ago.

This year, COVID-19 poses additional challenges for workplace safety.

"We've all ramped up cleaning and protective equipment use, but infectious disease is not the same as a machine guard for a spinning blade," he said. "COVID-19 is particularly dangerous in operations where employees work side-by-side for long periods of time, like meatpacking. Long-term, diligent behavior management is needed to keep people safe."

Employer COVID-19 resources are available from the National Safety Council's [SAFER program](#) and on the Minnesota Safety Council's [COVID-19 Updates/Resources](#) page.

In addition to Minnesota-specific [traffic safety resources](#) and [workplace training](#), the National Safety Council has resources available for businesses and employees to build strong safety cultures and address issues like [mental health and ergonomics](#).

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The Minnesota Safety Council is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preventing injuries on the road, at work, at home, and in the community. For more information, see [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org).

The [National Safety Council](#) is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate – and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, it works to eliminate the leading cause of preventable death and injury, focusing efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. It creates a culture of safety to not only keep people safer at work, but also beyond the workplace so they can live their fullest lives.