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**City of Duluth - Communications Office**

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**DATE: 4/29/2019**

**SUBJECT: Duluth Fire Department to Host Mock Crashes at High Schools**

**BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer**

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**Duluth Fire Department to Host MOCK Crashes at High Schools**

[Duluth, MN] The City of Duluth Fire Department will be conducting two mock crashes at Denfeld and Marshall High Schools this week. The mock crashes are scheduled on April 30th at Denfeld High School, and May 1st at Marshall High School. Both events will begin at 9:30 a.m.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, traffic crashes are the second leading cause of death for Minnesota teenagers (behind suicide), primarily due to inexperience behind the wheel, poor seat belt use and risk-taking behaviors such as speeding and distracted driving. Alcohol can also be a factor in teen crashes, especially during prom and graduation seasons.

“Mock crashes are a dramatic presentation to educate teens and parents about the true consequences of making poor driving decisions,” says Sandy McComb, Deputy Fire Marshall said. “When students see their friends and peers carried out in body bags, and another being handcuffed and taken to jail, it hits home. It’s a strong message that aims to influence their driving choices, especially at such a potentially dangerous time on the road.”

Students and parents were notified prior to the event.

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