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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sheriff's Office Observes Drop in Fatal Crashes in McHenry County March 8, 2010**

Sheriff Keith Nygren announces that the McHenry County Sheriff's Office has seen a significant decrease in traffic fatalities in McHenry County. In 2009 the Sheriff's Office investigated 8 fatalities as a result of serious traffic crashes. Sheriff Nygren attributes the decreased numbers to Sheriff's deputies working on education, enforcement, and engineering.

In 2006 Sheriff Nygren implemented a full time four person Traffic Unit which focuses on traffic safety. Deputies educate citizens, neighborhoods, organizations, and schools on traffic safety and traffic laws. The Traffic Unit also collects data and analyzes information provided from the community for extra patrols. Deputies conduct area specific patrols to identify what factors exist that contribute to traffic crashes. They also work with McHenry County Department of Transportation or the appropriate road district to determine how intersections or roadway construction may be contributing to traffic safety concerns.

<u>McHenry County Sheriff's Office</u>	<u>2006</u>
Serious Injury Crashes	57
Total Crash Deaths	23
	<u>2007</u>
Serious Injury Crashes	43
Total Crash Deaths	24
	<u>2008</u>
Serious Injury Crashes	35
Total Crash Deaths	18
	<u>2009</u>
Serious Injury Crashes	16
Total Crash Deaths	8

In 2009 the McHenry County Sheriff's Office joined other local law enforcement and Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety in Operation Save 100. The State of Illinois also saw a decline in the traffic fatalities in 2009. In 2009 there were 917 provisional fatalities compared to in 2008 there were 1043 fatalities.

Sheriff Keith Nygren encourages citizens to continue to report dangerous, distracted, and impaired driving to the Sheriff's Office (815)338-2144 or their local police jurisdiction.

Keith Nygren, Sheriff

Media Note: The IDOT Motor Vehicle Crash data recorded for each year includes numbers from municipal jurisdictions in McHenry County, so that is why numbers differ. "Serious Injury Crash" is when the MCSO Traffic Crash Investigation Team investigates an incident and that data is not a statistic that is kept/ reported to IDOT DTS.