



Sheriff

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NEWS RELEASE

October 1, 2026

Regarding: Joint Traffic Enforcement Project on I-80 Targets Distracted Driving in Jasper County

On Wednesday, September 30, the Jasper County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Safety Commercial Motor Vehicle Division for a targeted high-visibility traffic enforcement project along Interstate 80 in Jasper County. Funded by a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB), the initiative specifically focused on curbing distracted driving and promoting overall highway safety.

During the enforcement window between 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM, Jasper County Deputies and Iowa State Troopers from the Commercial Motor Vehicle Division focused their efforts on identifying distracted drivers, monitoring commercial motor vehicle compliance, and addressing dangerous driving behaviors. Alarming, the majority of distracted driving violations involved commercial motor vehicle operators watching videos on electronic devices mounted on their dashboards.

Enforcement Results & Key Findings:

Distracted Driving: 9 citations were issued specifically for distracted driving violations, with a majority involving commercial drivers actively watching video streams on dash-mounted devices while operating.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement: 3 commercial motor vehicle inspections were conducted, resulting in 1 commercial vehicle being placed out of service for safety violations.

Safety Warnings: 60 warnings were issued for various equipment violations and improper driving maneuvers.

Operating an 80,000-pound fully loaded vehicle requires a driver's undivided focus. Seeing commercial operators watching videos behind the wheel of these massive vehicles is deeply concerning. These vehicles demand a driver's full attention to prevent catastrophic crashes and ensure the safety of everyone sharing the road. Thanks to grant support from the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and our partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Safety Commercial Motor Vehicle Division, we will continue taking direct action against dangerous distractions on our area roadways.

A reminder to all drivers, both passenger and commercial, to eliminate electronic distractions, keep their eyes on the road, and prioritize public safety.

For immediate release:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad M. Shutts".

Brad M. Shutts, Sheriff