

For Immediate Release

Re: Double Impact Double Header

From: Kathy Sandberg, Rice County Chemical Health Coalition

Date: April 7, 2010

On April 19, 2010, Double Impact and the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition will highlight the significance of youth issues of drinking and driving in two events planned for that date. Double Impact's Mock Crash is planned for 1:00 pm at the Rice County Fairgrounds. Later, the Coalition will host a Town Hall Meeting beginning at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center at Faribault Senior High School. The two events supported by the collaborative efforts of many partners including the Faribault Police Department, the Rice County Sheriff's office, the Rice County Attorney's office, North Memorial Ambulance, Bethlehem Academy, Faribault High School, Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault Fire Department, Faribault Area Chaplains Emergency Services, Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Minnesota Highway Patrol.

The Mock Crash will portray a vehicle crash involving the use of alcohol by teen drivers. Students from local schools will participate in the re-enactment as will emergency responders and local law enforcement. Students will be transported to the fairgrounds to witness the crash. The Double Impact group is also encouraging parents and community members to attend. In case of inclement weather, the crash will be postponed to the next day. Area schools will also have crashed vehicles on display that day to encourage thinking and discussion around the issues of alcohol / other drug use and driving. This event is scheduled near prom time in an effort to raise awareness, promote conversations and protect our young people.

That evening, a community Town Hall Meeting will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about the extent of youth alcohol use in our community, the risks of youth alcohol use and to engage in discussions that lead to community-based solutions. The Town Hall Meeting in the Performing Arts Center of the Faribault High School will feature a video created by the Minnesota Highway Patrol titled "How to Save a Life". Following the film, a panel will speak briefly and then entertain a dialogue with audience members. The evening will conclude with awarding a "Saved by the Belt" award to three local teens and the opportunity to network with agencies and organizations working to keep our young people safe.

For more information, contact Kathy Sandberg at ksandberg@ricecountychc.com or at 507-210-5151.