



- Hennepin County Sheriff
- Metro Transit Police
- Minneapolis Police
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota National Guard
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Ramsey County Sheriff
- St. Paul Police

## Keeping the Community Safe

The trial for former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin has drawn significant public interest and media attention. That interest will increase as the trial progresses and the courtroom proceedings are livestreamed around the world.

In preparation of this major event, public safety professionals at the state, county, and local levels of government are working together to ensure Minnesotans are safe whether they're at home, at work, or outside with neighbors exercising their First Amendment rights.

This coordinated effort to keep Minnesotans safe is referred to by public safety professionals as Operation Safety Net.

### **What is Operation Safety Net?**

Operation Safety Net is a coordinated effort to ensure the safety of the public during the trial of Derek Chauvin. The organizations participating in Operation Safety Net are committed to protecting people, property, and freedom of speech.

### **Why is Operation Safety Net necessary?**

This trial is of significant public interest and as people gather to exercise their rights, public safety professionals are making plans to keep everyone safe and respond to challenges as they arise. Across the country and here in Minnesota, peaceful groups have been targeted by individuals intent on doing harm. Operation Safety Net was created in preparation of this event to facilitate First Amendment speech while also protecting people and property from individuals intent on doing harm.

### **Who is leading Operation Safety Net?**

This is a joint effort between the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota, as well as the Metro Transit, Ramsey County, and other local jurisdictions. Agencies that are part of the effort include: Minneapolis Police, Metro

Transit Police, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the Minnesota State Patrol, the Minnesota National Guard, and other entities.

These agencies will be operating under unified command in order to coordinate their services and resources. Unified command means multiple voices from involved agencies contribute to the operational decisions.

The City of Saint Paul is leading a parallel planning effort as part of the East Metro Response Group which includes Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Dakota County Sheriff's Office, the State Patrol, the Minnesota National Guard and other entities. Operation Safety Net and the East Metro Response Group are working together closely to ensure a unified response.

**What can Minnesotans expect to see?**

For the duration of the trial, Minneapolis, Saint Paul and metro area residents will begin to see equipment, barricades, fencing, traffic control, National Guard vehicles, and helicopters. There may be temporary closures and restrictions for streets, parking, and other facilities.

**Why this level of security?**

Extremist groups may view the trial as an opportunity to do harm. Threats could include individuals with a radicalized ideology intent on disrupting the trial or seizing an opportunity to do harm. This level of security is necessary to ensure the trial can occur and that those who gather are safe.

**Is this level of security planning happening because law enforcement thinks the public will be unhappy with the verdict?**

Keeping the public safe during all phases of the trial is critical, as is ensuring the justice system can do its job. The court, prosecutors, and defense attorneys will argue this case, and ultimately jurors will decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant. Making sure that the trial can be carried out safely and without interruption is part of securing justice.

**Will other agencies or levels of government be providing support?**

Yes, as part of the mutual aid system other agencies from around the metro and the state will be part of supporting the coordinated response under unified command.

**What is the role of the National Guard?**

At the request of Mayors Carter and Frey, Governor Walz activated the Minnesota National Guard to assist in a wide range of emergency situations and support public safety related to the trial.

In addition to their federal missions serving the nation overseas, the Minnesota National Guard helps on missions here at home in Minnesota. Over the past year, the

Guard has played a critical role supporting the State of Minnesota, including running COVID-19 testing sites, helping take care of residents in long term care facilities when too many staff were sick due to COVID-19, assisting with the state's COVID-19 vaccination effort, and helping to protect Minnesota communities during challenging times including civil unrest, spring flooding, and dangerous winter storms.

**The organizations participating in Operation Safety Net want Minnesotans to have clarity about which activities are encouraged, and which activities are unlawful.**

**Encouraged Activity**

- Peaceful assembly
- Marching (not on a freeway)
- Making your voice heard
- Exercising constitutional rights
- Remaining in public areas
- Signs and other peaceful expressions
- Assembling in designated areas

**Unlawful Activity**

- Protesting on or entering a freeway as a pedestrian
- Throwing objects
- Setting a fire of any kind
- Damaging property or graffiti
- Use of illegal fireworks
- Display or use of illegal weapons
- Reckless driving, especially near pedestrians