



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff

For Immediate Release

August, 31th 2016 as of 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Morton County PIO Donnell Preskey or Rob Keller (701) 426-1587

Morton Deputies Respond to Protest Activity at Highway 6

Mandan, ND -

At 07:22 a.m. a call came into State Radio of people crawling on construction equipment on the west side of Highway 6 south of St. Anthony. Morton County deputies were dispatched and observed approximately 50 protestors and 40 vehicles at the site. Deputies found two men bound to construction equipment. The protestors secured their arms around the equipment and then covered their arms with what appears to be a PVC pipe or casting type of material. The Mandan Rural Fire Department was dispatched to the scene to assist in extracting the protestors from the construction equipment.

Two arrests have been made as of 11:00 a.m. today. They include:

A 47 year old, St. Louis Missouri woman was arrested for preventing arrest, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and obstruction to a government function. According to responding deputies the woman was standing on equipment. They instructed her to step down and refused. The woman is in the custody of the Morton County Sheriff's Department.

A 25 year old, Cannonball man was arrested for criminal trespass and obstruction to a government function. Deputies removed him from one of the pieces of construction equipment and he is in custody of the Morton County Sheriff's Department.

Deputies are currently still in the process of removing a second man who is bound to the construction equipment.

Highway 6 has been closed due to traffic safety concerns related to this latest protest activity. The roadway is closed at the junction of Hwy 6 & 138A and Hwy 6 & 21. Traffic will be diverted to Hwy 1806 which is temporarily allowing traffic through to avoid the more serious traffic safety issue on Highway 6. Wide loads should avoid Hwy 1806 due to width restrictions.

AGENCIES ON SCENE: Morton County deputies, Burleigh County deputies, Mandan PD officers, Bismarck PD officers, ND Highway Patrol

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MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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News Release
For Immediate Release
August, 24th 2016
Contact: (701) 426-1587

Highway 1806 Blocked for Traffic Safety Due to March

Law Enforcement temporarily blocked traffic on Highway 1806 near the Fort Rice boat ramp to all traffic. This action came as a request from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal members in order to provide further traffic safety for a march which was scheduled from 10-2 p.m. Wednesday, August 24th. Individuals planned to march from the Cannonball River Bridge to the Dakota Access Pipeline construction site. The road block will be removed once the March has concluded.

Law Enforcement are present only to ensure safety of the motoring public and protestors, and will advise any approaching motorists of the protest march.

To provide further background, the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Highway Patrol restricted southbound traffic August 17th on Hwy 1806 six miles south of Mandan to local traffic and emergency response vehicles only. Alternative routes are available for through traffic. A traffic control point has been established.

There are two sections of North Dakota Century Code that give the North Dakota Highway Patrol or local law enforcement and the North Dakota Department of Transportation the authority under North Dakota Century Code to close a roadway. They are listed below:

39-10-21.1. Closing road because of hazardous conditions - Posting of official traffic-control devices - Entering closed road prohibited.

1. The highway patrol or local law enforcement authorities having jurisdiction over a road may close a road temporarily due to hazardous conditions for the protection and safety of the public. If such a closing is made, the authority ordering the closing shall make every reasonable attempt to notify the public and, when practical, may post appropriate official traffic-control devices to advise motorists of the closing.
2. An individual, while operating a motor vehicle, may not knowingly enter a road closed which is posted with an appropriate traffic-control device at the point of entry.

24-03-02. Authority to construct and maintain state highway system.

The director has the authority, and is responsible for the construction, maintenance, protection, and control of the highways which comprise the state highway system. The director shall patrol and keep said system in good and safe condition for general public use.

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