

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



For Release Immediately

May 7, 2010

**Shaun E. LaDue
CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Further Information Contact

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Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Initiatives:

Over the past several days there has been a significant increase in traffic related deaths, all of which could have been prevented. A summary of those deaths are included:

16 Fatalities. 11 Unbelted. Most of which were teenagers!

Day	Crashes	Unbelted	Belted	Fatal
Friday	2	3	0	4
Saturday	1	0	1	1
Sunday	2	7	0	7
Monday	2	3	1	4
TOTALS	7	16	2	16

Consider the following statistics as they are compared to crime:

- In 2008, there were 109 murders in Minnesota—and 455 people killed in crashes.
- There were more than 7,500 aggravated assaults—and nearly 34,000 people injured in crashes in 2008.
- There were 209,000 arrests in 2008—and more than 192,000 people were involved in nearly 142,000 reported crashes.

We cannot prevent crime with 100% certainty; however, we can prevent most traffic crashes that kill Minnesotans, more so than any other crime.

The Owatonna Police Department is requesting the community to come together and understand the importance of the individual responsibility of safe driving – “Enough is Enough.” As Chief of Police, I feel that our past and current efforts and a significant amount of luck have prevented such tragedies from occurring this year in our city/county such as those depicted in photo. In addition, the factors outlined in the preliminary investigations of these fatalities indicated that speed, failure to obey a traffic control device, no seat belts – driver and passengers, distracted driving and driving while impaired were all or in part considered contributing factors in the outcomes of these tragedies that could have been prevented.

On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, the Owatonna Police Department was recognized by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration – Region 5 and the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety for our traffic enforcement priorities and initiatives associated with data driven approaches to crime and safety, traffic safety priorities, leadership, and partnership with the State of Minnesota’s Office of Traffic Safety and its liaison, Brad Kollmann.

As a result, the Owatonna Police Department will continue to proactively address traffic safety and aggressively enforce speed, failure to obey traffic control devices, seat belts, distracted driving and driving while impaired. Unfortunately, people in our community do not understand nor appreciate the importance of this priority in public safety. Therefore, I am asking the community get on board with doing their part in understanding this critical aspect of law enforcement by practicing safe driving habits so that Owatonna does not become a part of the statistics that are included in this release. Your police department is doing their part, now it is time for you to do yours. Let’s work hard together so that someone we all know is not the name we attach to a statistic. Support your local law enforcement by first understanding why it is essential for them to do their jobs and second doing your part in making traffic safety a priority.

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2010

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AWARD

Sponsored by

*The National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration*

Region 5

&

The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety

Presented to

*City of Owatonna
Police Department*

Presented in recognition for your traffic enforcement initiatives, traffic safety program leadership and partnership with the State of Minnesota's Office of Traffic Safety.