

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE**

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



## **For Release Immediately**

May 28, 2010

**Shaun E. LaDue  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

## **For Further Information Contact**

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As we move into the summer months with our children out of school and more people outside enjoying summer activities, the Owatonna Police Department reminds motorists, bicyclist and pedestrians to be watchful for each other.

Motorists are reminded that they are to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian who has entered an intersection with a marked crosswalk or at an intersection without a marked crosswalk. Motorists are also reminded that they are required to share the roadway with bicyclists. A bicyclist is entitled to all of the rights and duties of any motor vehicle, although a bicyclist shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway with the exception of overtaking and passing a vehicle proceeding in the same direction, when preparing to make a left hand turn at an intersection or into a private drive or driveway, or when reasonably necessary to avoid conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge.

Bicyclists are allowed to operate on sidewalks, permitted they yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and give an audible signal when necessary before overtaking and passing a pedestrian on a sidewalk. No bicyclist is permitted to ride their bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district. Finally, a bicyclist riding their bicycle on a sidewalk or across a roadway or shoulder on a crosswalk in a lawful manner shall have all of the rights and duties of a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

Pedestrians are reminded that when walking along the side of a roadway, they shall when practicable, walk or move to the left side of the roadway or shoulder giving way to oncoming traffic. Where sidewalks are provided and are accessible and usable, it is unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon the adjacent roadway.

Lastly, when there is inclement weather, including rain, hail, sleet or snow, motorists are reminded that are required to operate their motor vehicle with their headlamps turned on.

The Owatonna Police Department hopes these safety tips help make it possible for everyone to have a safe summer season.

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*Owatonna Police Department - Exceeding Expectations!*