

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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



**For Release Immediately**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2009**

**Shaun E. LaDue  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**For Further Information Contact**

**Shaun E. LaDue, Chief of Police**

**507-774-7201**

## **HOLIDAY TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SAFETY ADVISORY**

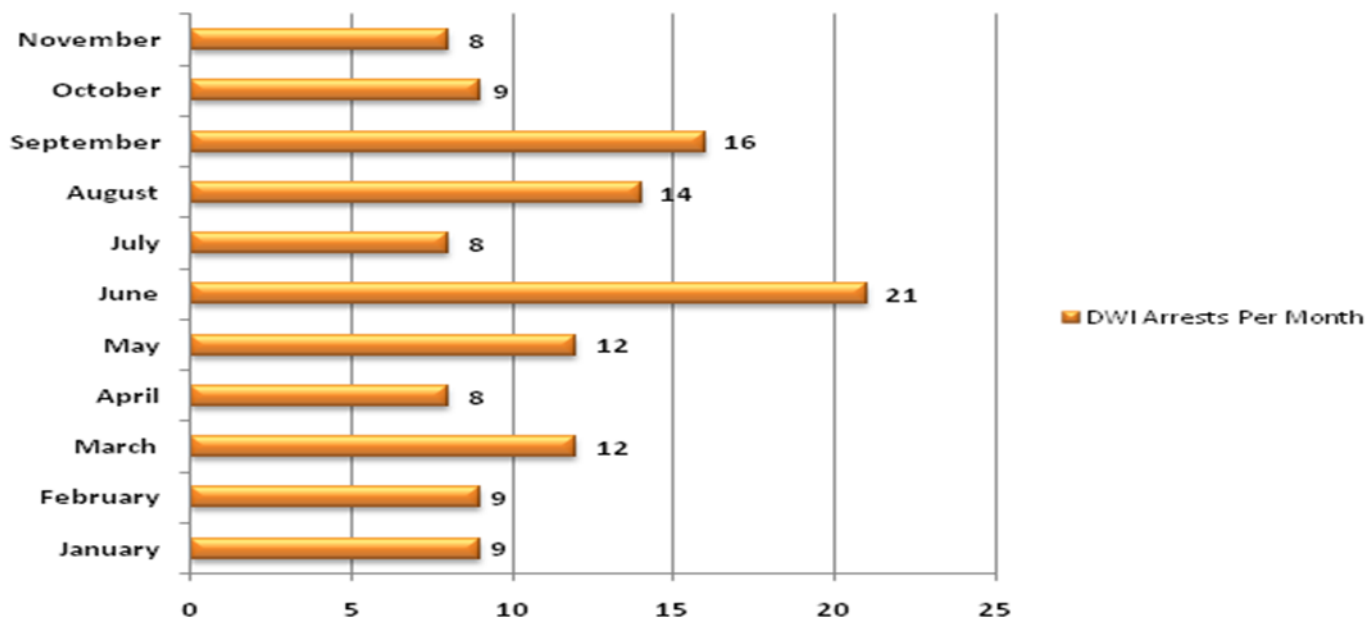
**The Owatonna Police Department in partnership with the Steele County Sheriff's Office and the Blooming Prairie Police Department are stepping up traffic safety and related enforcement efforts as we begin the 2009 holiday season. These efforts will be taking place through January 2, 2009 and will focus on impaired driving, seat belts, speed, driver distraction and failure to obey traffic control devices such as semaphore and stop sign related violations.**

**Through November 23, 2009, the Owatonna Police Department has made 126 arrests for impaired driving. From those arrests 69 were first time offenders which is a statistic that needs to be significantly lowered. The average blood alcohol concentration for these arrests was .155 or slightly below double the legal limit. Recently, Steele County was found to be one of four counties in Minnesota which had fatalities related to drivers/passengers not using their seat belts. Last year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 389 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes. Of those, 55% were unrestrained. Many of these needless deaths could have been averted by simply buckling up.**

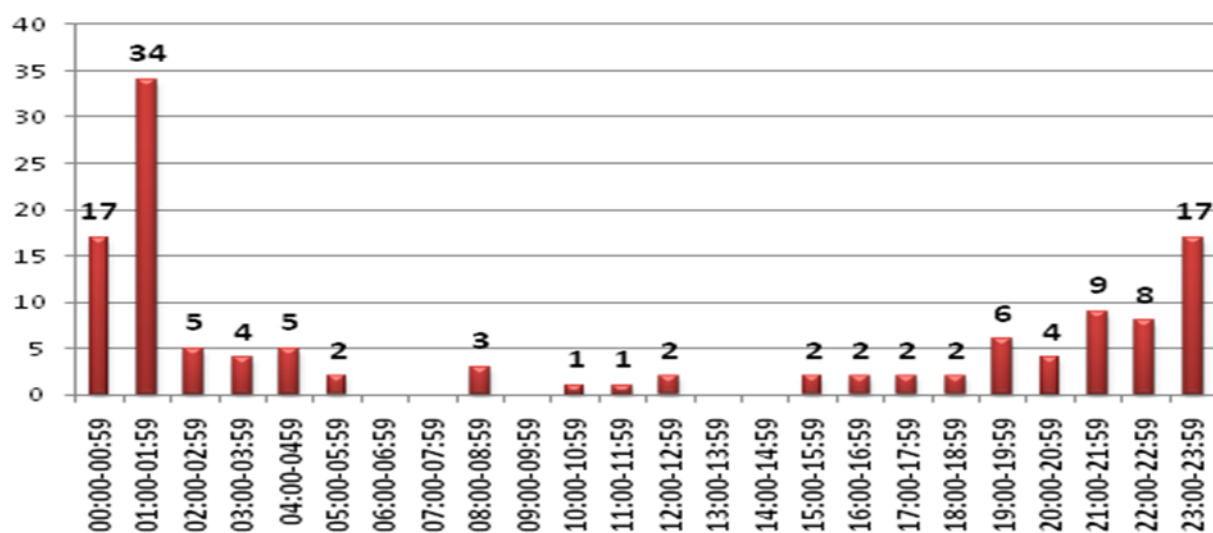
**Law enforcement in all of Steele County is assigning resources to enforce traffic safety as a means of making more certain that our public roadways are safe and that people arrive alive during this holiday season.**

**These initiatives are made possible by grant funding through the Minnesota Department of Traffic Safety/Safe and Sober funding initiatives.**

## 2009 DWI Arrests Per Month:



## 2009 DWI Arrests By Time of Day:



### Charges:

Total DWI Arrests: **126**

(January 2009-November 19th 2009)

4th Degree: **69**

3rd Degree: **36**

2nd Degree: **16**

1st Degree: **3**

Pending Charges: **2**

Vehicle Forfeiture: **20**

(Based on initiated forfeitures, not actual number of vehicles forfeited.)

### Statistics:

Average PBT: **.163**

(Based on 111 PBT tests.)

Average BAC: **.146**

(Based on 105 test results from BCA  
(intoxilyzer, blood, urine.)

Year High PBT: **.366**

Year High BAC: **.33**

(Based on 105 test results from BCA  
(intoxilyzer, blood, urine.)

PBT Test Refusals: **10**

Chemical Test Refusals: **12**