

MEDIA RELEASE

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



**Keith E. Hiller
CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Release Immediately

Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019

For Further Information Contact

Captain Jeff Mundale

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The Owatonna Police Department is investigating the circumstances that led to two people dying in a crash late Thursday morning. Around 11:40 a.m., Owatonna Police Officers were dispatched to a citizen reporting a domestic assault involving a man hitting a woman on the 100-200 block of 21st Street Northwest in Owatonna.

The vehicle's two occupants left the area before police arrived, and it was unknown if the female victim remained in the vehicle with the assailant.

A short time later, an Owatonna police officer observed the suspect vehicle traveling west on 26th Street Northwest near Interstate 35.

As the officer tried stopping the vehicle, the driver turned southbound on I-35 and began fleeing at a high rate of speed.

As the vehicle exited at West Bridge Street and collided into a post at the end of the off-ramp.

The two occupants were pronounced dead at the scene. Notifications are still pending.

The crash is being investigated by the Minnesota State Patrol.

Assisting agencies were the Owatonna Police Department, Steele County Sheriff's Office, Owatonna Fire Department, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota State Patrol.