Major Injury Roll-Over Crash — Just before 8 a.m. on Monday, March 28th, Owatonna first responders responded to a personal injury—rollover crash at the intersection of 15th Street N.E and Elm Avenue. A witness walking, observed a vehicle (pictured below) fail to stop for a yield sign and collide into the side of a White Jeep Cherokee traveling southbound on Elm Avenue. The driver that failed to yield right-of-way was Christopher Gerbensky, age 42, of Owatonna. He was operating with a suspended Arkansas driver’s license. Gerbensky was cited for the violations. The vehicle that was hit had two occupants on board and were transported by ambulance with minor non-life threatening injuries.

Basic Speed Results in DWI Charges—In the early hours of March 26, an OPD Officer was stopped at the intersection of Rose Street and Elm Avenue when he observed a vehicle traveling west on Rose Street at an estimated speed of over 50 mph. The vehicle slowed abruptly when the driver saw the officer at the intersection waiting. When the vehicle proceeded, the officer activated his emergency lights and made a traffic stop in the Fuel & Food parking lot. The driver, identified as Johysses Torres Zamora, was showing signs of intoxication and the officer had him perform field sobriety tests, which he failed. The officer placed Zamora under arrest and brought him to the Steele County Detention Center. Zamora agreed to a breath test that resulted in a .13 BAC—over the legal limit of .08. Zamora was issued a citation for 4th Degree DWI—a misdemeanor and released. The vehicle was turned over to the sober passenger.

April Distracted Driving Awareness Month—

In Minnesota each year, distracted or inattentive driving results in one of every four crashes. Tragically, about 70 deaths and 350 serious injuries also occur at the hands of a distracted driver each year.

As traffic safety professionals, we believe this number is underreported due to the challenges in determining distraction as a crash factor.

What can you do? Make a promise to yourself and your loved ones to shift your attention on driving and arrive to your destination safely.

Click here to watch a Kare11 news story on distracted driving titled “Message still not received”