Just the Facts

April 10, 2015

Weekly Highlights

Friday, April 3

Thursday, April 9

- Busiest Day of Week: Thursday—75 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 3:00 PM—38 events
- Total # of Events: 519
- Average Events/Day: 74.14
- Average Events/Hour: 3.09
- Average Traffic Stops: .81 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 1

Severe Weather Awareness—

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week 2015 is April 13-27, with two statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 16 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

This annual public event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools, and institutions that it’s essential to plan ahead for Minnesota’s severe spring and summer weather.

An informed, involved community is more resilient to disaster, and being prepared helps reduce the risks and costs of hazardous weather events. An easy way to get prepared is by participating in Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW). The statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 19 provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to prepare their homes, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Distracted Driving Enforcement—

Distracted driving is a leading factor in crashes each year in Minnesota. Law enforcement is the last line of defense when it comes to distracted driving and officers encourage anyone riding with a distracted driver to speak up.

- At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up.
- The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year.
- Preliminary numbers show that distraction was a factor in 16,900 crashes in 2014, resulting in 56 deaths and 165 serious injuries.
- More than 86,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2009 – 2013. That equals 25 percent of all crashes.

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign. It is also illegal for drivers with a permit or provisional driver’s license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911. Injuring or killing a person due to texting while driving can result in a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide. Starting Monday, the Owatonna Police Department will be looking to catch drivers who are focused more on their phones than on the road. The extra distracted driving enforcement runs April 13 – 18.

OPD Calls in Air Support—

On April 6th at approximately 10:00 PM, our officers were called to the area of 1600 block of Mosher Avenue for an intoxicated male—this was the third time our officers had dealt with this individual that day. As our officers arrived in the area, we were advised the male had fled from a house once he learned the police had been called. Officers checked the area and grew concerned when they couldn’t find him. The concern arose from the fact it was a sub 40 degrees and he fled wearing only a t-shirt, jeans. Our canine Kash was deployed to help search for the male, but due to the weather conditions, his scent was soon lost. Concern continued to grow when a t-shirt was located near the Lake Kohlmier boat landing that was believed to me subjects. Running out of options to locate the male, the MN State Patrol was enlisted to assist with their air unit—a helicopter equipped with a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system. The FLIR system is thermal imaging camera that can be used to detect heat signatures. Once the helicopter and FLIR system arrived, a heat signature was detected just off the walking path near the boat landing. The helicopter directed the land units to the heat signature where the male was located—shivering and wearing only jeans and socks—the 22 year old was brought to the hospital. A special thanks goes out to MN State Patrol—their assistance most certainly helped to avoid a situation that may have ended in a disastrous outcome.

Shoplifter Charged with Felony—

On Wednesday, Kohl’s was the scene of reported shoplifting in progress. Loss prevention security reported two women had loaded a cart of with products and one had concealed sunglasses in her purse. Security tagged the pair to the store exit where they left the cart in the entryway and left without paying for the sunglasses. Security confronted the two, but they continued on and left in a vehicle. Our officers found the vehicle parked outside the Dollar Tree store and one of the females inside the store—when she was identified, she was found to have a warrant for shoplifting. She was arrested & searched and found to possess presumptive methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Dana M. Oldeen, 45, was jailed and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Theft and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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