Hurricane Irene’s Effects are Far Reaching—

In light of Hurricane Irene, the public is reminded to beware of fraudulent e-mails and websites claiming to conduct charitable relief efforts. These disasters prompt criminals to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization of a good cause. Before making a donation of any kind, citizens should consider the following:

• Do not respond to unsolicited (SPAM) e-mail
• Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as officials soliciting via e-mail for donations
• Do not click on links contained within unsolicited e-mails
• Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as they may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders
• To ensure that contributions are received for the intended purposes, make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donations on your behalf.
• Validate the legitimacy of the organization by using various internet-based resources, which also may assist in confirming the actual existence of the organization
• Do not provide personal information or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identify theft.

On August 27th, an Owatonna officer attempted to stop a vehicle in the downtown area due to the driver not wearing a seatbelt. The officer activated his emergency lights and siren; however, the operator failed to stop. A short pursuit ensued until the driver pulled to the side of the road on Agnes Street in southeast Owatonna. The driver exited his vehicle and was ordered by the officer to stop and put his hands in the air. The driver disregarded the officer’s commands and began walking away from the officer. The lone officer drew his TASER and deployed it to control the subject. The driver was then placed under arrest for fleeing in a motor vehicle and DWI; arresting officers noticed the driver showed signs of impairment. Jay R. Pavek, age 31, was transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Pavek was formally charged in District Court with Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle, 2nd Degree DWI, Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot and other lesser traffic charges. Pavek’s vehicle, a 2002 Mitsubishi Diamante, was seized and is pending forfeiture for being used while fleeing a police officer. Why did Pavek flee; he told the officers he did not stop due to his drinking.

Now that’s Fast—

Also on August 27th, an Owatonna officer was on patrol on West Bridge Street near I-35 when he observed a motorcycle traveling on Bridge Street at a very high rate of speed; the officer clocked the motorcycle’s speed initially at 64 miles per hour and as high as 84 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour speed zone. The officer stopped the motorcycle on 24th Avenue Northwest. As he approached and spoke with the driver, the officer noticed signs of intoxication. After performing field sobriety test, the driver was placed under arrest for suspicion of DWI and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Stephen M. Beede, age 38, was formally charged in District Court with 3rd Degree DWI and speeding.