Structure Fire -

On Monday, May 2, 2011, Owatonna officers didn’t have far to travel when responding to a residential fire. Our parking control officer and a Steele County deputy observed smoke billowing out of a residence across the street from the Law Enforcement Center. When officers and fire officials arrived at the residence, they found the lower level of the residence engulfed in fire. We were able to determine the residence was not occupied and evacuated the residences on either side of the burning structure. For the next several hours, the Owatonna Fire Department worked to tirelessly extinguish the blaze. The following day, the State Fire Marshall and the department’s arson investigator were able to get into the residence and were able to determine the origin of the fire and that it was accidental. There were no reported injuries as a result of the fire.

DWI Arrest -

On Friday, April 29, 2011, and an Owatonna Officer was dispatched to the apartment complex located at 215 22nd Street N.W. for a male subject in a car yelling and screaming profanities toward the apartment complex and an individual residing in the complex. The officer arrived and found Ryan C. Goblirsch, age 23, sitting in his vehicle along with two juveniles. The officer noticed Goblirsch appeared impaired and after having him perform field sobriety tests, placed him under arrest for DWI. Goblirsch was formally charged in District Court with 3rd Degree DWI and Disorderly Conduct. His reason for yelling and screaming profanities—he was yelling a saying from a joke that he was familiar with while waiting for another juvenile he was going to be giving a ride to.

Summer Bicycling Season -

As we moving into the warmer seasons in Minnesota, more and more bicyclists will be sharing our roadways. Please know the eight Rules of the Road that save lives and reduce injuries.

- Bicyclists may ride on all Minnesota roads, except where prohibited.
- Bicyclists should ride on the road, and must ride in the same direction as traffic,
- Motorists must at all times maintain a three-foot clearance when passing a bicyclist.
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as motorists.
- Bicyclists and motorists must yield the right-of-way to each other.
- Bicyclists must signal their turns and should ride in a predictable manner.
- Bicyclists must use their headlight and rear reflectors when it’s dark. To increase visibility, consider adding a rear flashing light.
- Bicyclists should always wear helmets. Properly fitted helmets save lives and reduce injuries.