Just the Facts
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Dusted—On Saturday, officers responded to a citizen concern of a “slumper” parked in the Target parking lot. As the officer approached the vehicle, he observed the driver inhale or “huff” from a can of an aerosol dusting product. The officer made contact with the driver, identified as Andrew W. Swant, who told the officer he was “dusted”. The officer made observations that Swant was impaired, positioned in the driver’s seat and the keys were in the ignition to meet the impaired driving elements for “physical control”. The officer also saw two cans of Endust multi-purpose brand duster on the seat. The chemicals for most aerosol dusting products contain Difluorethane—a colorless, odorless gas classified as a hazardous substance. When inhaled, the gas gives users an immediate high. Inhalation poses serious health risks and can be fatal. The officer used the same set of impaired driver roadside tests as if Swant was drunk. Swant failed all tests by exhibiting poor balance, hand-eye coordination, divided attention and unusual behavior. Swant refused to a blood test, so the officer applied for a search warrant—Swant complied. Swant was held in custody and charged with 3rd Degree DWI of a Hazardous Substance.

Message Monday

“Friends don’t text friends who are driving” and “Turn signals—the original instant message”. What’s with the clever messages on MN DOT’s signboards through the state? The new campaign, named Message Monday, was launched to bring attention to safe driving and focusing on creatively changing driver behaviors. Throughout the campaign, Message Monday will relay safety messages each week to start conversations that could positively change the state’s traffic culture. The messages will focus on the emotional ties of traffic safety with an emphasis on positive messages that stimulate safe and acceptable rules of driving behavior. In Minnesota, crash fatalities have not significantly reduced in the past five years and a recent report published by the US Department of Transportation suggested that between 45% and 68% of travelers indicated that safety-related messages caused changes in their driving behavior. About half of the signs in the Twin Cities will display Monday Messages during the off-peak hours on Mondays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and after 7 p.m. on roadways that have higher traffic. Outside the metro area, the signs will display the messages between midnight and noon.

Domestic Assault—On Sunday, December 4th at 1:14 a.m., Owatonna officers were dispatched to a disturbance call at 2650 3rd Avenue NE. Once officers arrived, they heard a male and female yelling. Upon making their announcement, the place turned quiet and lights went out. Eventually, a woman answered the door crying. A male appeared from a second story bedroom, then went out of view. The officers entered the residence and detained the man identified as Miles Singleton. A second woman was found upstairs sitting in the dark and had visible signs of injury to her face and blood was splattered on her shirt, bedding and a lamp shade. A neighbor told the officers that they heard screaming and the sound of someone being “thrown against the wall”. Singleton has a prior record of third degree assault in 2008 and terroristic threats in 2013—both in other jurisdictions. Miles Singleton, age 32, was arrested and charged with a felony level domestic assault.