

MEDIA RELEASE

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JULY 2021 SPEED PATROLS: PRE-ENFORCEMENT NEWS RELEASE

DRIVERS SPEEDING INTO A TRAGIC SUMMER AS FATALITIES RISE

Drive Smart: Extra Speed Patrols on Owatonna Roads July 1 – July 31

Owatonna – Minnesotans are once again hitting the road for summer vacations. While many Minnesotans take driving smart seriously, some fell into poor driving habits during the COVID-19 pandemic, and those bad decisions continue as restrictions end. Speed is the one poor choice driving traffic fatalities to numbers the state hasn't seen in a decade.

To keep families safe, the Owatonna Police Department will be spending extra time educating and stopping speeders who jeopardize innocent lives. If you speed, expect to be stopped.

The Owatonna Police Department will be joining police officers, sheriffs' deputies and troopers from across the state to look for speeders jeopardizing the lives of themselves and others starting July 1 and going through the end of the month. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) coordinates the extra patrols and education effort. DPS-OTS provides federal overtime funding for law enforcement officers to conduct increased patrols.

Owatonna Police Officers are stopping drivers who are excessively abusing the speed limit, putting countless lives in danger. Driving aggressively and speeding is a selfish decision that can affect families for the rest of their lives. Imagine if that was your loved one who was injured or

Owatonna Police Department - Exceeding Expectations!

killed, all because of another driver’s decision to abuse the speed limit. Minnesotans can help others get home safely by driving smart and obeying the speed limit.

Traffic Fatality Trajectory Going Wrong Direction

In 2020, 122 motorists died in speed-related crashes, the most since 2008 (125). In 2021, the trend continues.

The 70 speed-related fatalities through June 18 compares with:

- 38 in 2020
- 28 in 2019
- 52 in 2018
- 40 in 2017

The 394 traffic fatalities in 2020 (preliminary) are the most in five years, with speed contributing to 30 percent of all traffic fatalities.

Speed-Related Traffic Fatalities

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
86	85	74	76	94	78	89	88	113	75	122

Reduce Speed. Reduce Chance of a Crash.

- Gives the driver more vehicle control.
- Allows the driver to respond more quickly to road situations.
- Decreases the severity of the impact during a crash.

Count to Three

- Motorists should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles.
- It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.

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