



Ortonville Police Department

225 NW 3rd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278

Ph: (320) 839-6161
Fax: (320) 839-3099

Chief of Police:

Jason A. Mork

Patrol Officers:

#2514 Clinton Sova
#2516 Kyle Arndt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2011

COMING TO A ROAD NEAR ORTONVILLE: EXTRA DWI PATROLS

Zero Alcohol-Related Deaths, 72 DWI Arrests in Big Stone County in Last Three Years

Drive sober or get pulled over. The Ortonville Police Department will crack down on drunk and impaired drivers during a stepped-up statewide and nationwide DWI enforcement effort, August 19–Sept. 5. The statewide campaign is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety.

On average in Minnesota, 30,000 motorists are arrested for DWI each year — there were 24 arrests in Big Stone County in 2010. During the last three years in the state, 2008–2010, there was an average of 145 alcohol-related deaths and 300 alcohol-related serious injuries. In Big Stone County during this period, there were zero alcohol-related deaths.

DPS reports enhanced DWI enforcement campaigns have factored in the state recording a trend of fewer alcohol-related deaths. Last year, 131 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes, the lowest on record since the statistic was first measured in 1984; down from 141 in 2009.

“DWI enforcement is important to stop preventable crashes and their resulting tragedies,” says Chief Jason Mork. “Law enforcement will be doing their part to make roads safer, we need everyone else to do the same or they will face very damaging consequences.”

A DWI offense can result in loss of license for up to a year, thousands in costs and possible jail time.

Another new consequence for DWI in Minnesota is use of ignition interlock. First-time Minnesota DWI offenders with a 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level, and all repeat DWI need to use ignition interlock, or face at least one year without a driver’s license. Interlock is installed under the dashboard of the vehicle and connected to its starter. Users must provide a breath sample into the interlock with an alcohol concentration below 0.02 in order for the vehicle to start.

Officers are also encouraging seat belt use during the campaign. Each year 75 percent of drinking drivers killed are also not belted. Minnesota’s primary seat belt law requires drivers and passengers in all seating positions — including the back seat — to be buckled up or in the correct child restraint. Law enforcement will stop and ticket unbelted drivers and passengers.

Ortonville Police Department encourages people to:

- Plan for a safe ride — designate a sober driver, or stay at the location of the celebration. Families should let each other know that they will be available to offer a safe ride home.
- Buckle up and wear protective motorcycle gear — the best defenses against an impaired driver.
- Report impaired driving — call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Witnesses must be prepared to provide location, license plate and observed dangerous behavior.

The enhanced DWI enforcement campaign is a component of the state’s *Toward Zero Death* (*TZD*) initiative. A primary vision of the *TZD* program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. *TZD* focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.



“To Serve and Protect”