



HUGO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2025



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS

As summer ends and students start to head back to school, safety is critical for those walking, biking, or taking the bus. Pedestrian and cyclist crashes with vehicles are rising, and they most often happen where people feel safest: crossings controlled by stop signs or signals. The Sheriff's Office urges everyone to keep these tips in mind:

DRIVERS

- Stop completely at least 10 feet from crosswalks or one full car length from pedestrians.
- Look right before turning right.
- Watch for people approaching from behind or the opposite direction when turning.
- Give cyclists at least three feet when passing.
- Slow for school buses with yellow flashing lights, and STOP for red flashing lights and cross arm. It's state law!

PEDESTRIANS

- Obey all traffic signals, signs, and barricades.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Treat each lane as a separate risk when crossing.
- Use sidewalks and paths; if unavailable, walk against traffic.
- Wear reflective gear or carry a light in the dark.

BICYCLISTS

- Ride in the direction of traffic when on roads or shoulders.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals; treat stop signs as yields only if the intersection is clear.
- Signal when turning, if able.
- Use lights and reflectors in low light.

Everyone shares the road. Stay alert, be visible, and be predictable.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

486

TRAFFIC STOPS

260

CITATIONS

106



WC25034323 HOUSE FIRE

15XXX EUROPA AVENUE N

At 11:49pm on July 3, a caller reported seeing flames on the front porch of a home. Arriving deputies spoke to the caller, who was at the scene and reported seeing a man outside the home but that he had since gone inside. Deputies then observed the man return with a garden hose to try to extinguish the flames. Deputies requested that he put down the hose and move to the sidewalk, then asked if anyone was inside the house. The man said his wife had left out the back door but that a teen child might still be inside. They called the teen, who was safe at a neighbor's. The man said that earlier he had asked a family member to place some used fireworks inside the garage, but instead they were placed on the front porch, where they reignited and caused the fire. Hugo Fire Department arrived to put out the flames. No injuries resulted from the incident.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

We've now passed that turn in summer specific to our county, with the end of the Washington County Fair. We thank all of you who stopped by to visit our booth and connected with us, checked out our new Mobile Command vehicle and watched our amazing K9 team demonstrations.

Summer may be coming to an end, but things don't slow down for us here at the Sheriff's Office. In early July, deputies alerted the East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force to investigate the case of a 14-year-old girl brought to one of our communities, and subsequently several other young girls, which led to the arrests and charging of two men.

Our deputies on the Washington County Drug Task Force have been steadily interrupting the flow of narcotics and guns into our communities. Seizures as of July 1 included 7.1 kilograms of marijuana, 1.4 kilos of cocaine, 4.45 kilos of methamphetamine, ¾ pound of fentanyl powder, 495 doses of hallucinogens and 16 firearms. One highlight: the Drug Task Force had information about a vehicle coming from Chicago with fentanyl powder. The vehicle was stopped in Lake Elmo; ½ pound of fentanyl was seized and two arrests were made.

And, on July 30, the WCSO Community Impact Unit teamed up for speed enforcement with agencies in Dakota, Ramsey, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine and Kanabec counties. With a goal of reducing some of the unsafe driving behavior we see daily, the results were notable: 75 officers made 645 stops, and WCSO wrote 28 citations in four hours, including a driver going 91mph in a 60 zone.

We hope you enjoy these last weeks of summer, in safety and with the knowledge that our dedicated team of professionals is always on the clock, no matter what the season.



In service,
Dan Starry

Sheriff Dan Starry