



# Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office

## Sheriff Todd O. Dahl

### Community Update

July 1, 2009

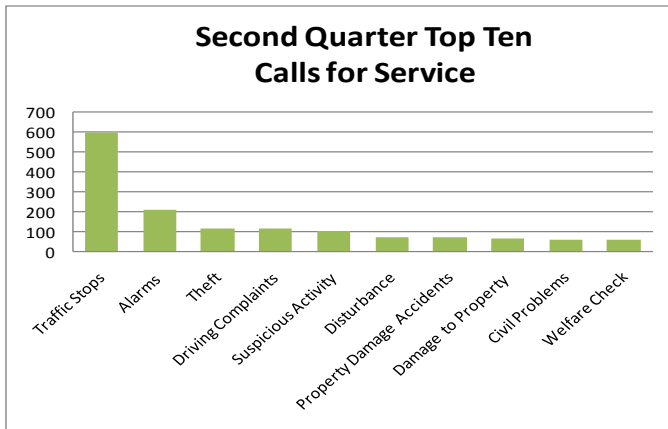
Subject: **Third Quarter Update**

#### Sheriff's Message:

Summer is here at last. What a great time of year. Of course this time of year brings with it concerns related to other people —such as the frustration of increased traffic, and those related to nature — such as wildfires, but there is no denying the beauty of our region. No wonder so many people travel so far to join us during these summer months. As I write this message, I am energized by the opportunity that I had to meet with so many of you during our Fourth of July celebrations. It is certainly one of the highlights of my job. I enjoy being part of the excitement and enthusiasm that exists in our communities. As always, the safety of our citizens and visitors are our top concern and this newsletter provides some facts to remember when enjoying our lakes and rivers. We also have a brief article about a rather large undertaking—the upgrade of our communications network. We received positive feedback on the statistics we provided in our inaugural newsletter and have decided to make that a mainstay in all future editions. Finally, we have listed some of the events coming up in our area where you will find members of our staff participating. If I haven't already, I hope to run into you and your family enjoying this awesome time of year. Whatever your activities, whether barbequing, boating, shopping or utilizing our trail system, please know that we are working hard to maintain the peace and provide for your safety and well being. Life is good and it is a honor to be your Sheriff.

#### FACTS About Water Accidents

- Here are some facts about water related accidents. Do any of these strike close to home?
- FACT: One quarter of all drowning victims are fishing.
  - FACT: Over one half of all drowning victims are legally drunk.
  - FACT: Two thirds of those who die can't swim, are fully clothed and don't intend to enter the water.
  - FACT: Three months (June, July and August) claim fifty percent of drowning victims.
  - FACT: Any or all of these factors are usually found in a drowning—inability to swim, cold water, alcohol or drugs.
  - FACT: The average time it takes a person to drown after entering deep water is 40 seconds.
  - FACT: Most drowning occur within 10 feet of safety, many within arm's reach of rescue.
  - FACT: Ninety three percent of all drowning victims are not wearing life jackets
- If your kids or grandkids are near the water, please, be near those kids. Toddlers struggle for 30 seconds or less before submerging and in many cases, once under water, they seem to lose their equilibrium and cease struggling at all. Drowning is silent, fast and deadly. Drowning victims do not call out for help, and their struggle lasts less than a minute. Be sure to keep a close eye on these precious people and always use your life jackets. Wearing a flotation device is the single most important thing you can do to increase your chance of survival. Remember, if you are not wearing it, it can't help you or the ones you love.



#### A Communication Upgrade

Hello? Can you hear me? Can you hear me now? — All of us have experienced the frustration of dropped calls, poor connections and lost messages while communicating via cell phone. When making dinner reservations, that can be frustrating. Now imagine what it would be like to be a law enforcement officer, fire fighter or a paramedic responding to an emergency, unable to clearly communicate with your dispatcher or other emergency personnel. This is often the case with today's overburdened public safety radio system, especially during large, wide-spread disasters or emergencies.

To address this need, and to ensure that emergency responders across all agencies and disciplines can effectively communicate with each other, the Federal Communications Commission has issued a requirement that all users of the current radio system upgrade to a fully interoperable radio system by January 1, 2013. The system that Crow Wing County has adopted is known as the ARMER, or 800 mhz system. ARMER is a nifty acronym for Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response. ARMER is a state owned and operated radio system that has been made available to local units of government to assist in meeting the FCC's deadline.

Once completed, this system will greatly increase the ability of the emergency response folks in your area to respond to emergencies and disasters that put your safety in jeopardy. No more lost calls, garbled messages or delayed responses—just the people you need, when you need them, ready to help.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Emily Days .....July 18, 2009
- Mission Fire Fair .....July 18, 2009
- Garrison Play Days.....July 24-26, 2009
- Minnesota Night to Unite ..... Aug 4, 2009
- Crow Wing County Fair .....Aug 4-8, 2009

Other calls/services provided by the Sheriff's Office (not included above):

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|---|-----|
| Warrant Arrests .....                       | 236 |
| Emergency Medical Calls .....               | 218 |
| Fire.....                                   | 74  |
| Gun Permits issued (purchase & carry) ..... | 241 |
| Boat and Water Permits issues .....         | 63  |