

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STEPPED UP SEAT BELT AND OWI ENFORCEMENT IN ONALASKA

The Onalaska Police Department has been stepping up efforts with seat belt and OWI enforcement as part of a \$4,000 Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety grant. The increased enforcement has been running since March 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue through the Saint Patrick's Day weekend and end on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

"There are too many deaths caused by not adhering to the seat belt and OWI laws," said Onalaska Police Chief Jeffrey Trotnic, "I was a traffic officer for many years and I have seen more than my share of tragedy that could have been easily averted by simply stopping to think. It's so easy, wear your seatbelt and don't get behind the wheel if you have been drinking, those two rules can go a long way towards getting you safely home. This isn't about issuing more citations it's about getting you and your loved ones safely home."

The Onalaska Police Department will be using the grant money to purchase an additional radar unit and three new Preliminary Breath Testers PBT(s), which are used to conduct field sobriety tests.

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"Under the current fiscal constraints getting a grant like this is a great help," Trotnic said, "this additional equipment will help our officers do their jobs."