

AROUND TOWN



Chief
Jim Crace

Deputy Chiefs
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo - SRO
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson
Olivia Gottschald
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Devin Kleive
Lucas Hedin

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 07/27/25 to 08/02/25, the Hermantown PD had 211 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Animal Disturbance

On July 27th 2025 around 1411 hours, officers took report of a dog that had just been abandoned on the roadside near Miller Trunk Highway & Lavaque Road. The caller provided a description and plate number of the suspect vehicle, and had followed it to a nearby gas station.

While in route, officers called the registered owner of the vehicle to begin investigating the complaint. The woman was upset, and said she was unaware that the dog was missing from the vehicle. Officers then learned that an additional witness had observed the dog leaping from the car's window.

The woman said she had been traveling down Miller Trunk Highway when the dog leapt up to the front seat. The dog's leash had bumped the shifter, putting the car into a different mode. She pushed the dog to the backseat, and believed the dog was still laying in the back.

The woman was joined by her family, and they began searching the last known location of the missing dog.

Check Welfare

On July 28th, 2025 around 0127 hours, dispatch advised officers of a vehicle traveling eastbound in the westbound lane of Highway 53. A second caller reported the same, but said the vehicle had corrected, and was travelling Miller Trunk Highway nearing Lavaque Road.

Officers located the suspect vehicle as it neared Haines Road, and observed it cross over the center and fog lines. A traffic stop was conducted, and spoke to the male driver. The man said he had left his home near Zimmerman, and was trying to find a gas station. The man was unaware that he was in Duluth, and thought he was just south of his home town. Officers noted the vehicle he was traveling in showed 13 miles until empty. The 77-year-old man did not show any signs of impairment, and was transferred for medical care with his family.

Traffic Accident

On July 31st, 2025 around 1648 hours, officers were dispatched to a multi-vehicle accident near the intersection of Haines Road and Anderson Road. Squads arrived on scene and observed numerous vehicles pulled to the roadside, and two that were still blocking the southbound traffic lane.

The driver of vehicle 1 said he had been reaching for his drink when he rear-ended vehicle 2, setting off his airbags, and disabling his vehicle.

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Vehicle 2 had been stopped in heavy traffic, and the crash caused them to the car in front of them. The impact of the initial crash caused a chain reaction, with a total of five vehicles being damaged.

The 66-year-old male driver of vehicle 1 was issued a citation for failure to drive with due care, and not carrying proof of insurance.

Suspicious Activity

On August 1st, 2025 around 0052 hours, officers on patrol observed two young males walking near the intersection of Miller Trunk Highway and Highway 194. Squads stopped to check on the males, who said they were just headed to a nearby gas station to get some food. The two were advised to be cautious while walking the highway at night, and were educated on the city's curfew ordinance.

Traffic Stop

On August 1st, 2025 around 0942 hours, dispatched to a report of a potentially impaired driver. The reporting party said they were concerned as they had just interacted with a man that smelled of alcohol, and had "glassy" eyes. They said the man had just left the area, and appeared to be driving too fast.

Patrol officers soon observed the vehicle traveling near the 5600 block of Miller Trunk Highway, and began monitoring driving conduct. After observing the vehicle crossing over the lane lines, a traffic stop was conducted.

When advised as to the reason for the stop, the man admitted to consuming alcohol the night prior. The driver completed field sobriety testing, and was sent on his way.

Traffic Accident

On August 1st, 2025 at 1620 hours officers were dispatched to a traffic accident involving multiple vehicles in the 3700 block of Haines Road.

Officers arrived on scene and observed the crash had involved four passenger vehicles. The driver of vehicle 1 said he had tried to stop, but his brakes were not working properly.

Driver 1 rear-ended Driver 2, causing disabling damage to both vehicles. Driver 2 was pushed into the rear of unit 3, causing minor damage to both vehicles. Unit 3 was then pushed forward into the rear of unit 4, causing minor damage.

The 18-year-old driver of unit 1 was cited for failure to drive with due care.

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