



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

Chief
Jim Crace

Deputy Chiefs
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer
Jon Pernu

Detective
Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers
Jason Salo, SRO
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson
Olivia Gottschald, K9
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Lucas Hedin, K9
Devin Kleive
Colin Kostiuik
Kane Kostiuik

K-9 Officers
Bruno
Kylo

Records
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson
Anna Johnson

During the week of 08/16/26 to 08/22/26, the Hermantown PD had 222 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Driving While Intoxicated

On August 16 just after midnight an officer was conducting stationary patrol near the intersection of Morris Thomas Road and Stebner Road. The officer observed a truck come to a stop at the four-way intersection before continuing West on Morris Thomas Road. As the driver cleared the intersection, the rear tires of the truck began spinning for several seconds while the driver did a "burnout". As the officer pulled out onto Morris Thomas, they noted an overwhelming odor of burnt rubber. The officer began following to monitor driving conduct, and observed the vehicle weaving in the lane, and driving above the posted speed limit. The 64-year-old male driver was ultimately arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, and DWI test refusal.

Suspicious Activity

On August 16 at 0937 hours dispatch advised of a suspicious activity call in the area of Sugar Maple Drive and Silver Leaf Street. The caller reported that an adult male had driven up on four-wheeler and stopped to talk to a group of children. The caller thought this was odd, and should be checked out by law enforcement. Officers stopped and located the male socializing with a group of adults and their children. They learned the man was a neighbor, and there was nothing suspicious occurring. The parties were advised as to the reason for the contact.

Vehicle Fire

On August 16 officers were dispatched to report of a vehicle on fire along Menard Drive. Officers responded and blocked the intersection while Hermantown Fire extinguished the vehicle fire. The driver said he was at the intersection when his vehicle suddenly shut off, and started to smoke. The man started to smell gasoline, so he exited the vehicle. The vehicle sustained major damage to the front end.

Check Welfare

On August 18 at 1518 hours dispatch advised of a check welfare for an individual in the 5400 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The caller was a passerby who had noticed a male slumped over on a slowly-moving lawn mower. Officers located the male driving a lawn mower in the ditch of a property. The man was found to be leaned over and driving slowly to be extra cautious in the sloped ditch.



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Traffic Stop

On August 21 an officer was conducting routine patrol on Northbound Miller Trunk Highway, approaching Arrowhead Road when they observed a vehicle abruptly cut in front of a motorcycle. The motorcycle had the right of way, and applied brakes to avoid a collision. The officer caught up to the vehicle, and a query of the license plate showed the driver had a suspended driving status. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was confirmed to be the registered owner. The man was issued a citation for driving after suspension, and given a warning for driving conduct. The female passenger in the vehicle was found to have active warrants.

Fleeing Shoplifter

On August 23 officers were advised of a suspect fleeing Walmart on a bicycle after shoplifting baseball cards. A direction of travel was given, along with a description of the man and his clothing. Officers began searching for the suspect, and soon located a shirtless male on foot wearing similar shorts as observed. The man had shed some of his outer clothing, and was carrying it. The man denied knowledge of the shoplifting, and said that he had been staying at a hotel nearby. Officers were able to review surveillance footage, and confirm that the male was the suspect. Officers detained the male, and found that the stolen merchandise was balled up inside the clothing. The shirt also contained personal belongings including multiple hypodermic needles, burnt tinfoil, and other items the man claimed were his. The value of the four boxes of baseball cards shoplifted was \$199.88.