

# Health Department County of La Crosse, Wisconsin

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# **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: September 28, 2015

## LA CROSSE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Distracted Driving is becoming more and more of an issue in our world as technologies are developing. La Crosse County may not be ready to tackle the issue of distracted driving, but many cities and states are. Starting in October, the La Crosse County Traffic Safety Task Force is implementing a new grant from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for distracted driving. Distracted driving is any activity that takes a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. Some examples are: reading including maps, eating or drinking, applying make-up or fixing hair, and using a cell phone to talk, text, or play games. The participating agencies are: La Crosse Police Department, UW-La Crosse Police Department, and Holmen Police Department. These agencies will be on the road watching for distracted driving and issue citations for traffic violations in the city of La Crosse, Holmen and at UW-L campus on October 8 and 21, 2015.

As usual, all Law enforcement agencies will be deploying for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) on October 16 and 31, 2015. During the deployments, officers will issue citations and make arrests during traffic stops for the following violations: operating while intoxicated, safety belt, speeding, operating after revocation or suspension, traffic sign or traffic light violations, drug arrests, felony arrests and warrant arrests.

#### Results:

## August 2015:

**170 citations** were issued to drivers for OWI, lack of safety belt use, speeding, operating after revocation or suspension and other traffic and car safety related issues. **211 warnings** were issued to drivers for speeding, lack of wearing safety belt, traffic and vehicle related issues.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

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Patrick Hogan, La Crosse Police Department – 608-789-7208
Mike Horstman, Sheriff Department – 608-785-6197
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Scott McCullough, UW-La Crosse Police Department –785-8108
Shane Collins, Holmen Police Department – 608-526-4212

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