

STARBUCK POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

AS PRESENTED ON JANUARY 11, 2020

January 11, 2021

Gary Swenson, City Mayor
City Council
City of Starbuck

RE: 2020 Annual Report

Dear, Mayor Swenson & City Council

This report contains a detailed overview of the Starbuck Police Department's activity for 2020. Included in the report are statistics related to the department's calls for service and total offenses charged. Also included is information regarding Police Department activities and updates of our significant programs for your review.

This report not an all-inclusive document, but rather a synopsis of events occurring in 2020, along with explanations/opinions on why we are seeing these trends. Also attached to this report is an all-inclusive list of statistics without any explanations of trends.

I hope you enjoy reading and if you or anyone else should have any questions regarding this document they should feel free to call or see me. I do plan to present this at the next city council meeting and ask that you have this item put on the agenda for discussion. Thank you for your support in 2021!

Respectfully,

Mitch Johnsrud
Starbuck Police Chief

Traffic Citations / Traffic Accidents

Since 2013, we have an average of 20 crashes per year, which we had 19 crashes in 2020. In 2020, issued at total 283 warnings for various traffic offenses and 58 State of Minnesota citations issued and 12 City of Starbuck administrative citations issued. SPD officers had 353 total traffic stops and gave out warnings on 80% of the traffic stops. SPD officers made 7 DWI arrests in 2020, which since 2013 we have an average of 15 per year. We have seen a decrease overall in traffic violations due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.



MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS (TZD)



The Starbuck Police Department also participated the TZD Enforcement Grant Program which provides federal funds to law enforcement agencies to conduct enhanced enforcement. We have participated in the TZD program since 2016 along with the Glenwood Police Department, Pope County Sheriff's Office, and the Minnesota State Patrol in Pope County.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety conducts six enforcement mobilizations involving approximately 350 participating law enforcement personnel throughout the year. The mobilizations focus on seat belt, speed, and impaired driving enforcement. In addition, two one-day enforcement campaigns focus on distracted driving and on enforcing Minnesota's Ted Foss Move Over Law.

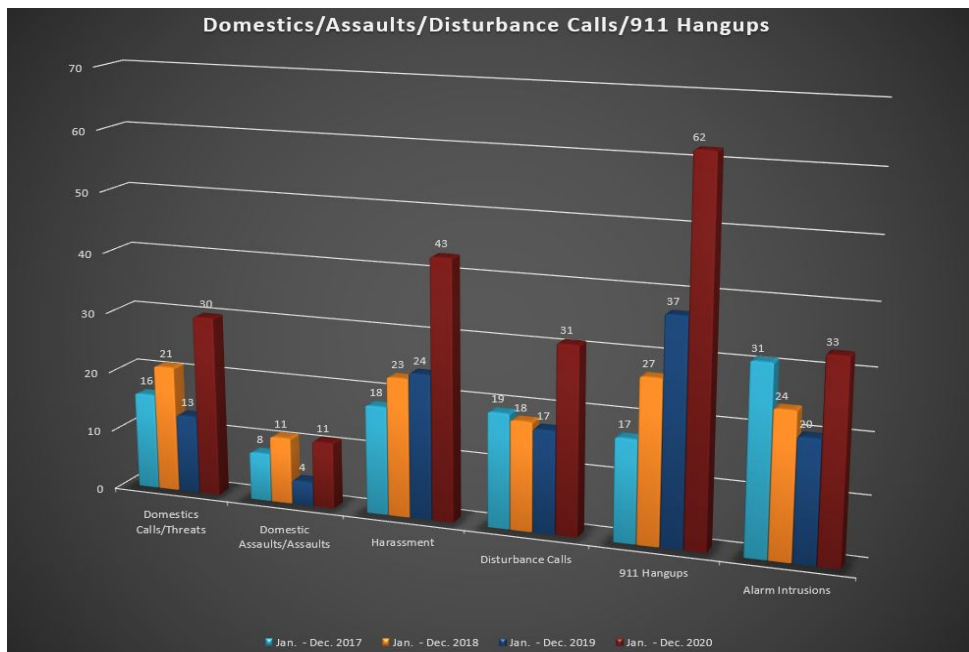
- **Click it or Ticket:** Occurs in April, May, and October

- **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over:** Occurs in December and mid-August through early September
- **Speed Enforcement:** Occurs in June and July
- **Distracted Driving:** Occurs one day in mid-April
- **Move Over:** Occurs on August 31 (the anniversary of the date Trooper Ted Foss was killed because of a motorist not moving over for an emergency vehicle)

Research has consistently shown that enforcement efforts do not have a lasting effect on drivers' behavior if most of the public is unaware of them. Combining increased enforcement activity with adequate public awareness efforts can result in long-lasting improvements in driver behavior.

Domestic/Disturbance Calls

We have experienced a decrease in reports of Domestic Disturbance and Domestic Assault in 2020. Our calls for Domestic Assaults have increased from 13 in 2019 to 23 complaints in 2020. The State of Minnesota law enforcement agencies in 2020 have seen over an 80% increase in domestic disturbance calls due to the COVID-19 shelter in place restrictions. The department continues to work closely with the Pope County Attorney's Office, Someplace Safe, and Pope County Human Services in these cases.



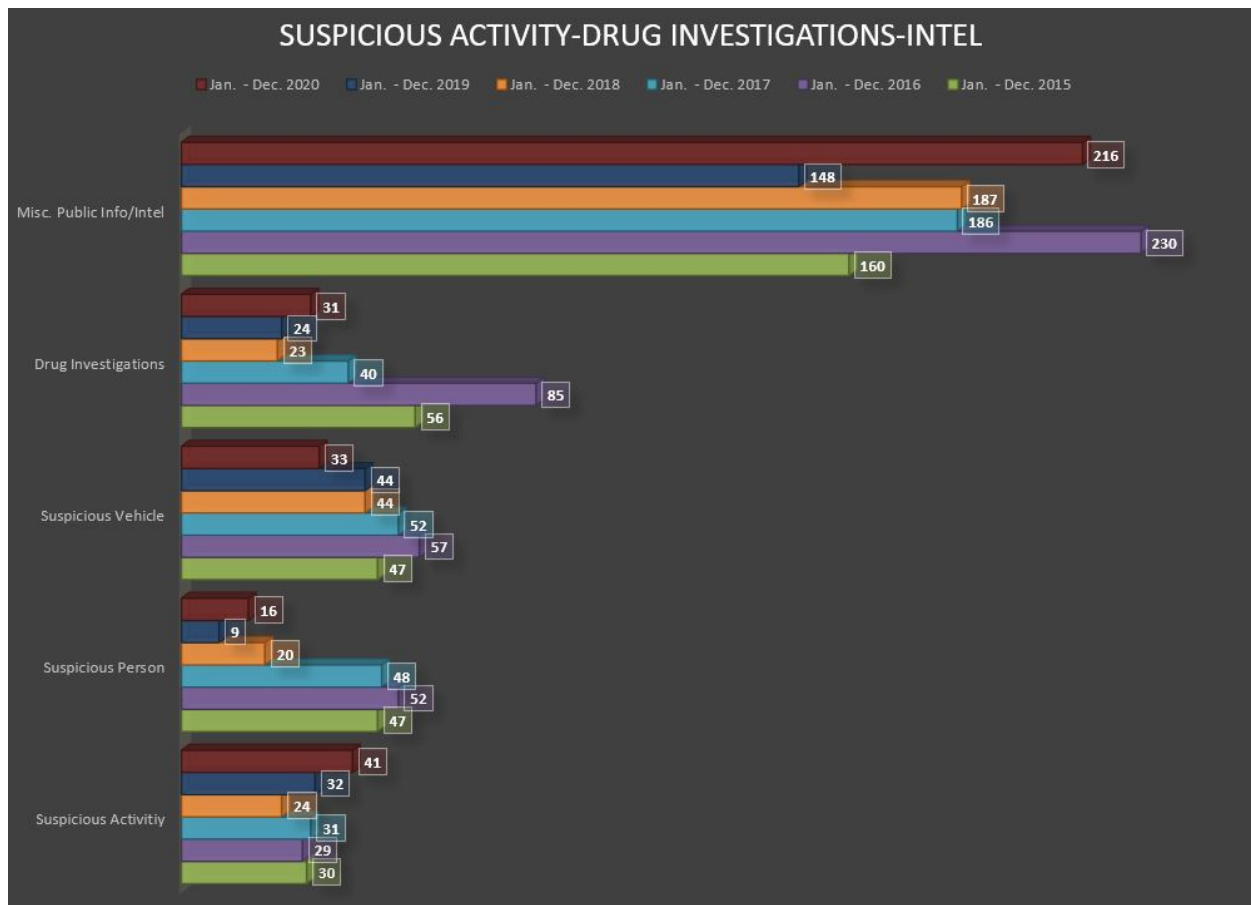
According to Violence Free Minnesota Coalition homicide report in 2019 Minnesota had 21 deaths from domestic violence, which at least 16 women died from intimate partner violence, and at least 5 bystanders/interveners died. The 2019 deaths ranged in age from 8 to 77 years old. As of October 2020, at least 22 people are believed to have been killed due to domestic violence in Minnesota.

Suspicious Activity & Drug Investigations

In 2020 we had an increase of drug investigations from 24 in 2019 to 31 in 2020, which some of them are still on going and we are currently working with the West Central Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force on these investigations. Out of the 31 drug investigations 6 of them stemmed from traffic stops, and the others from suspicious activity reports received from the public and officer self-initiated investigations.

In result, we had 2 suspects received felony charges of 5th Degree Possession of marijuana synthetics, 4 suspects received charges of 5th Degree Possession of methamphetamines, and 2 others received charges of 5th Degree Possession of un-prescribed medications.

We had 49 calls of some sort of suspicious activity happening in the City of Starbuck, which 5 of those calls ended up in criminal investigations and arrests, and some of the others led to ongoing drug investigations. So, we strongly encourage the community to continue reporting any type of suspicious activity as it has proven to be effective to deter criminal activity in our city.



Starbuck Police Department Arrests

Overall, the Starbuck Police Department had 2510 incidents, and out of those calls-for-service 92 incidents were cleared by arrest, which 76% of those arrests were traffic citations, 5.4 % were arrests that stemmed from drug investigations, domestic assaults, and suspicious activity calls. The other 8% of the arrests were from arrest warrants, thefts, harassment complaints, and other criminal investigations.



Community Involvement

The Starbuck Police Department continues to be highly active in and involved in the community. Officers are currently involved in several Community Policing Engagements to include:

- Pope County Senior Citizen TRIAD
- School Resource Officer Program
- Minnewaska Area Help Council
- Minnewaska Area Schools Crisis Team
- Toward Zero Death Enforcement (TZD)
- Neighborhood Crime Watch Program
- Starbuck Police Department Bike Rodeo
- Starbuck “Night to Unite” Event
- Starbuck PD “Safety Camp for Kids” (Grades 3 to 6)
- Violent Critical Incident (VCI) training for businesses and employees
- Pope County Child Protection Team
- Pope County Adult Protection Team

In addition, as the Chief of Police I am member of the Minnesota Chief of Police (MCPA) Association, and currently the MCPA Region 4 President (2nd Year), West Central SWAT Board and Team, West Central Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force Board of Directors, Association of Minnesota Emergency Mangers (AMEM), Pope County Community Leaders, Toward Zero Death (TZD) Steering Committee, TZD Fiscal Agent for Pope County, Minnewaska Area Schools Crisis Team, Pope County Mental Health Coalition, and the Pope County Criminal Justice Workgroup.

Technology Advancements

The Starbuck Police Department received funds through the CARES Act to purchase a new Use of Force De-Escalation tool called the BOLAWRAP. BolaWrap is the only remote response to resistance tool that ensures a safe space between the subject and the officer. It does not rely on pain compliance and is specifically designed to be deployed early in an encounter to decrease the potential for injury to the subject, bystanders, or the officer. Inflicting pain often escalates encounters, BolaWrap's non-threatening form allows time to de-escalate and provide needed support for the person in crisis.



What Is the BolaWrap?

Thought of as “Remote Handcuffs”, the BolaWrap® is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an 8-foot bola style Kevlar® tether at 513 feet per second to wrap a subject’s legs or arms at an effective range of 10-25 feet.

Each tether has a 4-pronged hook on either end. The tether and its hooks are contained in a cartridge. Each cartridge contains and is powered by a partial charge .380 blank.

To deploy the tether: the officer loads a cartridge into the device, a safety is turned to the off position which then automatically illuminates a green line laser for accuracy. The officer then manually moves the slide handle to the rear, and the activation button is pressed to deploy the tether.

Each cartridge can only be used once, and a new cartridge can be reloaded into the device in approximately 3 seconds.

Training

Police Officers must put their life on the line occasionally, but they make life and death decisions on a regular basis. They also make decisions on whether or not to take away someone's freedom by incarcerating them. Proper training is paramount to the successful delivery of effective service to the community. Starbuck Police Officers are trained to the highest level possible while staying within budget constraints. Last year your officers received countless hours of training in areas ranging from Active Shooter to Crisis Intervention and many other things in between. Proper training is related to quality delivery of service to the community and minimizes potential for litigation. Officers attended the following courses in 2020:

- Handgun/Rifle/Less Lethal Qualifications
- Firearm Tactics and Drills – Weapon familiarization
- Use of Force & Defensive Tactics
- Low light/Adverse Weather Firearms Qualification
- Taser & Chemical Training
- Criminal Patrol Tactics & Drug Interdiction
- Close Quarter Combat (CBQ)/Building Searches and Clearing
- Crisis, Conflict, Community Diversity (Mental Health Response)
- OSHA Mandatory Requirements
- MSCIC Investigators Conference

STARBUCK POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Starbuck Police Department mission is to provide Service to the community with honesty, integrity, and respect. In partnership with the community, we are dedicated to reducing crime, problem solving and ensuring the quality of life in the community. The Starbuck Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the community we serve.

CORE VALUES

The men and women of the Starbuck Police Department are committed to successfully accomplishing this mission with courage, integrity, and hard work. These three values are uncompromising and will guide and inspire officers while serving the citizens of Starbuck. Finally, our mission statement provides the foundation upon which all operational decisions and organizational policies are based.