



Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

**Chief**  
Troy Appel

**Captain**  
Kevin Flynn

**Sergeants**  
Tim Gaul  
Nathan Grimmus  
Josh McCuen  
Brett Wilttrout

**Patrol Officers**  
Andrew Bromberg  
Dan Brouillet  
Austin Christianson  
Chris Hillesheim  
Kirk Honius  
Randy Liepold  
Colby Palmersheim  
Brandon Peil  
Mark Riley  
Alex Tokar  
Jake Walker

**Investigators**  
Shawn Elsing  
Dave Hoffman  
Joe Joswiak  
Tyler Olson

**School Resource**  
Jacki Bomgaars

### Individual Highlights:

Notable Calls	2
Law Review	2
Scam Alert	3
Ask an Officer	3
Criminal of Month	4
Mission Statement	4

## Officer Profile: David Hoffman

The officer profile for December is Detective David Hoffman.

Detective Hoffman was born and raised in Worthington and graduated from the Worthington High School.

After graduation, Detective Hoffman attended Worthington Community College where he received a general education degree.

Detective Hoffman went to work at County Market for a year before deciding that he wanted something more and enrolled in the Law Enforcement program at Alexandria Technical College.

After graduating in 1997, Detective Hoffman spent the next three years working for the Nobles County Sheriff's Department before being hired by the Worthington



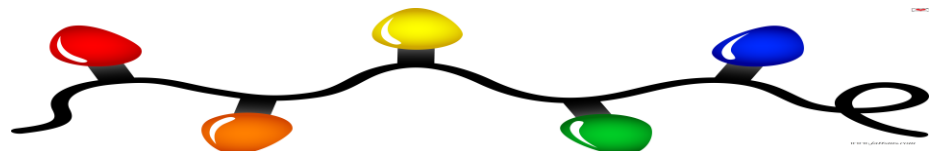
Police Department as a patrol officer. After a few years of working patrol, Detective Hoffman was promoted to his current position as detective.

Detective Hoffman devotes most of his time assisting other officers with their cases by conducting

follow ups and interviews.

Detective Hoffman also processes all evidence for the police department.

When Detective Hoffman is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family.



**Animal Control**  
Virgil Veen

**Community Service**  
Myra Onnen

**Reception**  
Barb Hussong

**Records**  
Shari Droll  
Julie Jeppesen

**TAC/IT**  
Gary Gerdes

**Dispatch Supervisor**  
Nancy Veen

**Dispatch**  
Tonya Aanenson  
Stephanie Culham  
Hannah Huls  
Jodi Mulder  
Larry Rogers

**K-9 Officers**  
Mack  
Thor

# Holiday Safety Tips: Christmas Tree Fires

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on average there are 860 reported home structure fires per year with an additional 210 being caused by Christmas trees.

These fires result in an average of 7 deaths, 19 fire injuries, and \$17.5 million in direct property damage.

Your holiday celebrations don't have to end with an unexpected visit by the Worthington Fire Department if you follow a few simple steps.

2. Keep decorations and other flammable items at least 3 feet from open flames and heat sources.
3. Inspect all decorations to ensure they do not have frayed or pinched wires and discard any that do.
4. Never leave a space heater unattended and turn it off when you are leaving a room or going to sleep. Don't allow pets or children to play too close to the space heater.
5. Check to ensure multiple extension cords are not strung together or run under rugs, carpet or furniture. Make



sure that only extension cords used outdoors are labeled for "outdoor use only".

1. First install carbon dioxide and smoke detectors on every level of your home and test them monthly.

6. Water your Christmas tree daily and discard the tree when it becomes dry and starts to drop the needles.
7. Finally, never leave cooking equipment unattended. If you have to leave the room, turn off the burners.

## Law Review: Intentional Release of Harmful Substance

Minnesota State Statute 624.732 makes it a misdemeanor if the person intentionally exposes another or the other's property to an obnoxious or harmful gas, fluid, or substance, with intent to injure, molest, or coerce.

This crime becomes a felony if the person violates the law and knowingly creates a risk of death or bodily harm or serious property damage and subjects the person to a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine, or both.

**DON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH**

Text confidential tips to the  
**Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force**

**100% Anonymous**



BRDTF Tips available on Apple and Android devices

## Scam Alert: Secret Sister Gift Exchange

The “Secret Sister Gift Exchange” has flooded social media sites over the past month.

The premise is that if you send in one gift worth \$10 to a stranger, you will receive as many as 36 gifts in return.

As the scam picked up steam, more and more people started to post photos of their alleged gifts from strangers.

While some people may have received a gift or

two, none have received an avalanche of gifts as promised.

This is because this is an updated version of an old scam, the “chain letter gifting” scam, which is also a pyramid scheme.

Not only is the gift exchange a scam, but it is actually illegal according to the United States Postal Inspection Service.

The chain letter is illegal if they request money or

other items of value and promise a substantial return to the participants.

Participating in Pyramid schemes can carry severe penalties also. If you are convicted federally, you may be fined and/or imprisoned for not more than two years. Subsequent violations can result in prison time of up to five years.

Don’t let this scam ruin your holidays! Save your gift giving for your friends and family.



## Ask an Officer: Do I Have to Identify Myself to an Officer?

Am I required to identify myself to the police when they ask?

In Minnesota, there is no one state statute that requires you to identify yourself to a law enforcement officer, although you are required to identify yourself in certain circumstances.

The first circumstance is if you are carrying a concealed weapon. Minnesota law requires you to show your permit to carry and your identification when asked by a law enforcement officer.

The second circumstance is if you are operating a motor vehicle, you are required to show identification

that you are licensed to operate the vehicle.

The third circumstance is anytime that an officer has a lawful reason to do so. Lawful reasons can include identifying a person as part of a criminal investigation, in order to issue a warning or citation for a traffic or criminal violation.

A simple rule is that if you are being detained and not free to leave, then you are required to identify yourself.

There are also things you cannot do when asked to identify yourself. You cannot walk or run

away as this can be deemed to be fleeing on foot. In addition, you cannot give the officer a false name or date of birth as these are violations of the law as well.

Do you have a question for a police officer, but never had the chance to ask?

Here is your chance! Each month, one question will be selected and answered in this newsletter. Send your comments and questions to:

[chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us)

## **Worthington Police**

1530 Airport Road  
Suite 300  
Worthington, MN 56187

PHONE:  
(507) 295-5400

FAX:  
(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:  
[bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us)

Animal Control  
(507) 360-7044

Community Service Officer  
(507) 372-8189

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.ci.worthington.mn.us](http://www.ci.worthington.mn.us)

## **Humor in Law Enforcement**

Dumb criminals are not just limited to people in the US as our neighbors to the north found out.

Just after midnight on December 25, 2010, officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police came across a snowmobiler in a Petersfield hotel parking lot, just north of Winnipeg.

Upon seeing the officers, the snowmobiler started to taunt the police by yelling and swearing at the officers while

spinning the snowmobile around in circles.

In his drunken state, the man lost control of his snowmobile and was thrown from it, landing at the feet of the startled officers.

For his troubles, the man was promptly arrested for his actions and spent his Christmas in jail, while his brand new snowmobile was impounded.



philipmattin.com

## **Mission Statement**

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity  
by working WITH the community  
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1530 AIRPORT ROAD  
SUITE 300  
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**