

## Agency Purpose

The mission of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is simple – to protect Minnesota with a commitment to excellence by promoting safer communities through:

- ◆ prevention
- ◆ preparedness
- ◆ response
- ◆ recovery
- ◆ education
- ◆ enforcement

We do this by focusing on:

- ◆ saving lives
- ◆ providing efficient and effective services
- ◆ maintaining public trust
- ◆ developing strong partnerships

## Core Functions

The DPS provides a variety of core services statewide to support the goal of keeping Minnesotans safe. These core services include:

- ◆ enforcing liquor and gambling laws;
- ◆ conducting criminal investigations and forensic science analysis;
- ◆ administering driver and vehicle services;
- ◆ coordinating emergency planning and response for disasters and acts of terrorism;
- ◆ promoting fire safety;
- ◆ ensuring safety of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems;
- ◆ enforcing traffic laws on Minnesota highways;
- ◆ promoting safety on roadways and reducing traffic injuries and fatalities;
- ◆ providing advocacy, services, and financial assistance to crime victims;
- ◆ administering justice assistance and crime prevention grant programs; and
- ◆ administering the statewide 9-1-1 program, and distributing funds for the statewide trunked radio system.

DPS works to ensure that these core functions incorporate innovation, stewardship, collaboration, and communication.

The DPS took on a new role after 9-11-2001, as Minnesota's Office of Homeland Security. The department oversees the coordination of preparedness and response plans and resources, and serves as a link from the federal government to local public safety agencies. Under Governor Tim Pawlenty, Commissioner Michael Campion serves as the Director of Homeland Security.

## Operations

Service to the citizens of Minnesota is the DPS's number one priority. However, the department's efforts also impact federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies, fire service agencies, emergency management, licensing and inspection agencies, other government agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations. Nine separate divisions within the department provide direct services to the public.

**Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement** enforces liquor licensing and gambling laws through compliance checks, assistance to local agencies with criminal investigations, and efforts to combat underage drinking.

## At A Glance

The Driver and Vehicle Services Division processes over five Million vehicle transactions each year.

The State Patrol made 7,036 driving While Impaired (DWI) arrests in 2005; which is an increase of 168% since 1975.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension examined 15,924 cases in FY 2005; this was an increase of 27% since FY 2004.

More than 375 locally-based crime victim programs received funding, and provided services to approximately 130,000 individuals in FY 2005.

From 1975 to 2005, the number of traffic-related deaths fell 28% and severe injuries fell over 86%.

Three hundred thirty nine fire investigations were conducted by the State Fire Marshal's Office in 2005; 126 of these were determined to be arson.

**Bureau of Criminal Apprehension** provides complete investigative assistance to local agencies, forensic laboratory services, criminal history information, and training to peace officers.

**Driver and Vehicle Services** provides vehicle registration, driver's license, and driver evaluation services. Driving records and accident reports are also maintained.

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management** coordinates disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for homeland security, natural, and other types of major emergencies and disasters.

**State Fire Marshal and Pipeline Safety** protects human lives and property by promoting fire prevention and pipeline safety through inspections, investigations, and public education.

**State Patrol** enforces traffic laws on Minnesota's highways, responds to crashes, inspects commercial vehicles, and assists local law enforcement.

**Traffic Safety** administers programs and grants that reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes in Minnesota including programs such as alcohol awareness, safety belt promotion, and motorcycle training.

**Office of Justice Programs** was created by executive order of the governor in May 2003, and brings together programs formerly operated through Minnesota Planning and the Office of Crime Victim Ombudsman, and the departments of Public Safety, Education and Economic Security. The office provides leadership and resources to reduce crime, improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, and assist crime victims. This office also provides grant administration, criminal justice information and research, and assistance and advocacy to crime victims.

**911 Emergency Services/ARMER** oversees the 9-1-1 System standards; provides technical assistance to cities and counties to implement and improve 9-1-1; manages and distributes funds to provide for 9-1-1 service, and distributes funds for the regional public safety trunked radio system.

DPS also has five internal support divisions that provide services relating to communication, fiscal administration, human resource management, internal affairs, and technical support.

### Contact

Department of Public Safety  
Bremer Tower Suite 1000  
445 Minnesota Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

World Wide Web Home Page:  
<http://www.dps.state.mn.us>

Michael Campion, Commissioner  
Phone (651) 201-7160 Fax (651) 297-5728

For information on how this agency measures whether it is meeting its statewide goals, please refer to <http://www.departmentresults.state.mn.us>