

07/2025

JULY

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LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



THIS ISSUE:

- Show and Tell - TruSpeed LIDAR
- Ask a Cop - Lane Filtering/Splitting
- Training Topics - RADAR and LIDAR
- Event Highlight - La Crescent Live
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- Calls for Service Report

SHOW AND TELL - TRUSPEED LIDAR

Speeding continues to be one of the leading causes of traffic crashes across the country, contributing to 28% of all fatal incidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). With an estimated \$40.4 billion in annual costs tied to speeding-related collisions, traffic enforcement isn't just about citations—it's about saving lives.

To better address speeding in our community, the La Crescent Police Department uses a TruSpeed 20/20 LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) unit, manufactured by Laser Technology Incorporated. Unlike traditional radar, which uses a broad radio wave to measure vehicle speed, LIDAR uses a narrow laser beam, just 2.5 by 2.5 feet in size at 1000 feet, to pinpoint a specific vehicle with extreme precision.

This accuracy is a game-changer, particularly in high-traffic situations where multiple vehicles are moving closely together. With LIDAR, officers can isolate and measure the speed of a single vehicle, even from long distances, making enforcement both more effective and more defensible in court.

The TruSpeed 20/20 offers a long range, fast acquisition time, and reliable readings. It helps our officers better protect local roadways by discouraging excessive speeding and promoting safe driving behavior, especially in high-risk areas like school zones, near busy intersections, and in residential neighborhoods.

As we continue investing in tools that improve traffic safety and reduce crashes, LIDAR technology gives us a sharper eye on the road and a stronger hand in keeping our community safe.



TRAINING TOPICS - RADAR AND LIDAR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

This past month, all sworn officers at the La Crescent Police Department completed agency-wide training in both radar and LIDAR speed detection systems. The goal: to sharpen our understanding of how these tools work and how to use them effectively and responsibly in speed enforcement.

Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging) uses radio waves to measure the speed of a moving vehicle. It's highly effective for general traffic enforcement, especially when monitoring larger areas with multiple vehicles in motion. LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), on the other hand, uses a focused laser beam to target specific vehicles – ideal for pinpointing speeders in high-traffic areas or at greater distances.

This training reinforced not just the technical aspects, but also the strategic side of enforcement. Officers reviewed best practices for positioning, visual estimations, and safe, fair traffic stops.

By staying current with these technologies and techniques, we're better equipped to enforce speed limits and help prevent the kinds of crashes that endanger our residents every day.

ASK A COP - MOTORCYCLE LANE FILTERING

As of July 1, 2025, Minnesota allows lane splitting and lane filtering for motorcycles under specific conditions. Lane splitting lets motorcyclists pass vehicles in the same lane when traffic is moving, but only: at speeds of 25 mph or less, and no more than 15 mph faster than the posted speed limit.

Lane filtering is allowed when traffic is stopped, like at lights or in jams, and only: at speeds no more than 15 mph.

These maneuvers are not allowed in school zones, roundabouts, work zones with one lane, or on freeway on-ramps.

Motorcyclists: Only filter or split when it's safe and legal to do so.

Motorists: Watch for motorcycles sharing your lane and do not block or impede them when the law allows these actions.

Let's all share the road with respect and awareness.

- Officer Weinfurtner



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: LA CRESCENT LIVE SERIES

Summer evenings in La Crescent are sounding a little sweeter with the return of the La Crescent Live concert series! Held at just behind city hall in the green space, these free, family-friendly concerts bring the community together with great music, local food vendors, and a chance to relax and enjoy the best of summer in the Apple Capital.

Whether you're dancing in the grass, catching up with neighbors, or just enjoying the tunes from a lawn chair, La Crescent Live is a highlight of the season for residents of all ages. Note: One of the concerts originally scheduled earlier this summer has been rescheduled to July 30th, so be sure to mark your calendars and spread the word! The La Crescent Police Department is proud to support these events, and you'll often see our officers stopping by to enjoy the music and connect with the community. We'll see you there!

JUNE CALLS FOR SERVICE

336 Total Calls for Service

Notable Call Types:

911 (Hang Ups and Open Lines) - 11
Accidents - 6
Alarms - 1
Animal Complaints - 20
Assist Other Agency - 15
Child (Calls Involving) - 6
Civil Matter - 4
Community Policing - 6
Damage to Property - 3
Death - 1
DWI - 2
Extra Patrol - 5
Fireworks - 1
Found Property - 9
Harassment - 2
Juvenile (Calls Involving) - 6
Littering - 1
Lost Property - 8
MAARC Report - 2
Medical - 30
Motor Vehicle Unlock - 2
Motorist Assist - 3
Noise Complaint - 3
Open Door - 5
Ordinance Violation - 8
Parking Complaint - 16
Public Assist - 1
Public Hazard - 4
Scams - 7
Suspicious - 9
Theft - 2
Traffic Complaint - 12
Traffic Stop - 49
Trespassing - 2
Trouble With Party - 15
Warrant - 1
Welfare Checks - 3



RESERVE REVIEW

This month, our La Crescent Police Reserves completed a refresher course in CPR and First Aid, led by Investigator Daveau, a certified CPR instructor through the American Heart Association.

The training included instruction on current best practices and procedures for responding to medical emergencies, from basic first aid to full cardiac arrest scenarios. Reserve members practiced hands-on CPR techniques using training manikins, reviewed the use of AEDs, and were tested on a mock scenario to apply what they'd learned under pressure.

Keeping these certifications current ensures that our Reserves are not only ready to assist sworn officers, but also able to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations where every second counts.

A big thank you to Investigator Daveau for leading the course—and to our dedicated Reserve team for continuing to build the skills that help keep our community safe.

