

# Press Release

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## **CANINE TRAINING IN ONALASKA**

On February the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Onalaska will be going to the dogs as the Onalaska Police and Houston County Sheriff act as host to a multijurisdictional canine training event. Fifteen Police K-9s and their handlers will be coming from surrounding jurisdictions locally and from Minnesota to train together in Onalaska. All of the officers coming to train are members of the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 12. The USPCA is a non-profit group dedicated to assisting Police Departments with training and certification of their Police Dogs.

According to Officer Dan McCluskey, the Onalaska Police Department's K-9 handler, this will be an intensive two day scenario based training.

"We'll be using several abandoned buildings in both Onalaska and Holmen," said Officer McCluskey, "this type of scenario based training is designed to mimic real world conditions. It's very useful seeing how the dogs react and perform under these conditions. The Onalaska City Engineer and the people at Gundersen have been very accommodating allowing us to train in

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some of the buildings that the City has acquired and the old clinic. We are very grateful for their support."

The dogs and their handlers will be using the old Bait Shop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, the old Gundersen Lutheran Clinic building as well as the Onalaska City Shop and will be doing vehicle training in Holmen.

"This is an excellent opportunity for not only training but for Officers to exchange ideas and information," said Onalaska Police Chief Jeffrey Trotnic, "I have long been an advocate of this type of multijurisdictional training and I am very pleased that Onalaska is hosting this training."

This training is not open to the public and the Police ask that citizens not stop and watch.

"This will be very intensive training," said Officer McCluskey, "and we need to control the scene not only for training efficiency but for safety as well. We wanted to be sure that citizens were aware of the training so that the presence of so many out of area police vehicles and K-9s didn't cause anyone any undue concern."