

Hamlin County Sheriff's Office

A black patrol vehicle with gold and white markings, including a star and the words "HAMLIN COUNTY SHERIFF", is parked on a road. The background shows a vast, flat landscape under a twilight sky with a bright light source creating a lens flare.

2015 Annual Report

*“Serving our Communities with honesty, integrity and professionalism
with Leaders we trust and character that counts”*

2015 Annual Report



THE OVERVIEW

BY: CHIEF DEPUTY TAYT ALEXANDER

The Hamlin County Sheriff's Office continues our hard work in protecting the lives and property of its citizens and visitors to the county. Last year brought some changes to the department but our focus continues its strong efforts on providing the best service possible. During the early fall, the county commissioner approved an additional deputy position to help with calls of service and the day to day actives done by the agency. In this publication, you will read about the different activities done by the department along with the overall crimes, calls of service, accidents and traffic issues seen by the office.



In 2015, the overall numbers have dropped from the previous year but still remains above the five year average. Last year the sheriff's office investigated 260 crimes which is a 12% drop from 2014's record high of 297. Unfortunately, underage drinking in the county had nearly doubled in 2015 with a total 41 citations. Officers responded to a smaller increase in drug crimes, felony aggravated assaults, fraud complaints, sex/rape crimes and weapon violations. 2015 did bring a drop in burglaries, simple assaults, thefts and vandalisms investigated by the sheriff's office. The most active period for crime during the year came in January followed by November and March with December and June being the least active. Most of crimes reported to the department occurred in the rural areas with a total of 107 followed by Hayti at 45, Castlewood with 28, Lake Norden with 25, Bryant at 23, Lake Poinsett at 21, Estelline with 9 and Hazel at 2. Along with crimes, calls of service that are not crime related are down from 2014.

Last year, the agency received 1,285 calls to the department with the busiest month occurring in July. The department was dispatched to 136 fire and medical emergencies, had 172 animal or cattle out complaints, responded to 225 traffic complaints, checked out 80 suspicious activity calls and had 8 suicide related calls to just name a few. 911 abandoned and nuisance calls remain high with an average just under five per week that are sent to the department. Most of these calls originate from cell phones where a child is playing with the phone. The best prevention is to take the battery out of the phone before allowing any child play with the phone. Phones that do not have service providers can still call 911.

2015 Annual Report



THE OVERVIEW CONTINUE

Regrettably, the agency responded to a growth in traffic accidents in 2015 with a total of 219. Car vs deer crashes did lead the pack with officers responding to 126 accidents. We also saw 80 non-injury accidents, 12 injury accidents and 1 fatal crash. Over the past eight years, Hamlin County has seen a fatal crash each year with 2010 and 2011 having two fatal crashes. This year's goal, the department is focusing on keep accidents down with many different projects planned.

As we continue into 2016, the Hamlin County Sheriff's Office has many goals in place. The agency continued efforts to provide the best service possible to the citizens remains the top priority. We are also focusing on the drug issues within the county with different drug education and enforcement activities throughout the year. Besides the drug focus, the department will continue to work on the traffic complaints and issues that are received with help with other law enforcement agencies such as the South Dakota Highway Patrol. The Hamlin County Sheriff's Office would like to thank nearby law enforcement departments for assisting and aiding our officers with calls within the county. If you would like to see a complete detail report, please visit our website at www.hamlincountysheriff.com.