



## A Message from the Colonel

Beginning in 2013, the Division of Enforcement solicited input from user groups and stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, to help develop a 10-year strategic plan. The goal of the plan is to better serve the people of Minnesota. Information gathered from you as volunteer instructors was also part of developing the education portion of the plan. This information was shared last year at the instructor forums that the Regional Training Officers facilitated. Feel free to review the firearms safety program evaluation report at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/firearms-safety-hunter-ed.pdf>

The division has been operating with up to 30 vacant field stations for several years. Since service to the public is paramount, in order to improve efficiencies there needed to be some division restructuring.

One of our priority missions has always been to provide quality safety education training to the people of Minnesota. Thanks to a strong tradition of dedicated and motivated volunteer instructors, Minnesota is looked at as a leader in safety education and training.

We will continue to be a leader in safety education under a restructured division. The RTO's will now work through regional direction. We expect this will benefit both safety programs and students with increased communication and teamwork between conservation officers and volunteer instructors.

America's youth are increasingly reliant on technology. The Division will capitalize on this opportunity by incorporating more advanced technology into our education delivery systems. I am proud of the progress made in this area so far and how instructors have embraced these technological advances to meet customer needs. I am confident that the Division can do even better by increased communications between conservation officers and instructors.

I am asking for your continued commitment and support as the Division works to improve the services we deliver to the people of Minnesota. Through your continued dedication, the future of outdoor recreation looks very bright!

Sincerely,

Colonel Ken Soring

June 2015

MN DNR  
Enforcement/Education  
Safety Training Section

Phone: 1-800-366-8917

FAX: 320-616-2517



**At what age are youth eligible to attend any of the DNR Safety Training Classes?**

Students must be age 11 BY THE START DATE of the class to be eligible to attend class and receive their Certificate.

**Do students need to wait to complete the steps on their Yellow copy of their Registration form in order to print their Certificate?**

No. Students, with the help of their parents, should follow the directions on the back side of the Yellow copy of their Registration Form AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. They do not need to wait!

**Products for FAS/Hunter Education Field Days:**

Daisy Laser Ed Training Rifles can be purchased for your Field Day. Call 800-713-2479 or go to [Daisy Laser Ed](#).

Henry Repeating Arms

# ATV/OHM and Snowmobile Course Available Online Soon

The ATV/OHM and Snowmobile safety courses will be moving online! The courses will soon be available for students to complete the coursework in an online format. We will continue to use the same age format as we have for the CD course - 11-15 year-olds complete the online course and are required to attend an instructor-led operator course. Students age 16 and older will complete the online course and have the option to attend the operator course. OHM students that want ONLY an OHM certificate will not be required to attend an operator course.

We anticipate continuing to offer the CD as an option for this first year as we make the transition. The online course will be available to the public sometime this summer.

Also, be aware that the course fee is set by the vendor and that it will be \$29.50. The courses will be just as comprehensive as our CD-based course, but maintaining and updating the course contents will be much more efficient and effective. Our section will see decreased costs due to discontinuing the updating and production of the CDs.

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## Find a Conservation Officer

Looking to find a Conservation Officer to attend your class?

Use the MN DNR web page to find a Conservation officer nearest you. In the search box, just type in your city or address and click go. Then click on the area on the map and the Conservation Officer info shows up in a balloon box.

Direct link to webpage:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/officerpatrolareas/index.html>

Company  
.22 rifles both Lever and Bolt action 718-499-5600 or [Henry Repeating Arms Co.](#)

Hunter Safety Systems  
Fall Arrest Harness  
Toll Free #1-877-296-3528  
Savage Arms : [Hunter Safety Systems](#) .22 bolt action youth models—single shot

Third Hand Archery  
has a tree stand Gun Hoist and other training aids available for purchase [Third Hand Archery](#)

### Recreational Vehicle Web Pages:

All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM): [All Terrain Vehicle Assn of MN](#)

Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association: [ARMCA](#)

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA): [American Council of Snowmobile Assoc.](#)

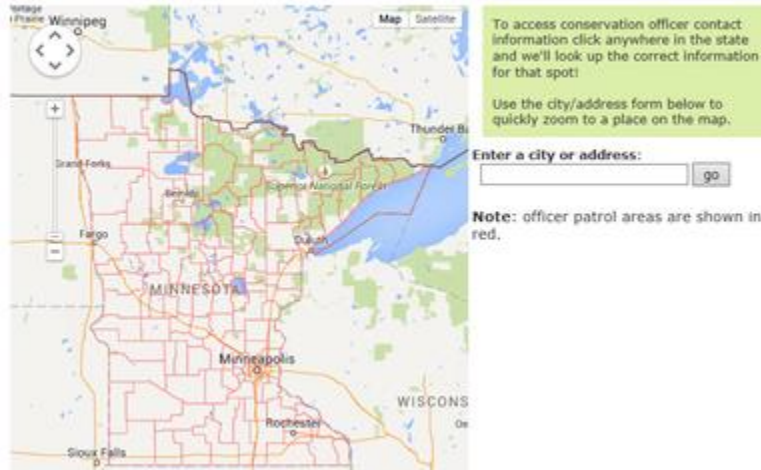
MN 4WD Association [MN 4WD Association](#)

Minnesota United Snowmobile Association (MnUSA): [MN United Snowmobilers Assoc.](#)

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC): [Nat'l Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council](#)

**Listed below are additional websites that may be helpful to you in locating products,**

## Conservation Officer Locator



To access conservation officer contact information click anywhere in the state and we'll look up the correct information for that spot!

Use the city/address form below to quickly zoom to a place on the map.

Enter a city or address:  go

Note: officer patrol areas are shown in red.

## DNR-Certified Volunteer Instructors Needed

Do you know someone who wants to become a DNR-Certified Volunteer Safety Training Instructor? Does your Team have helpers who are not certified? Contact your local Regional Training Officer to schedule an instructor clinic in your area. Go to: [DNR Instructor Page](#) and click on Regional Training Officer Map for contact information.

## Firearms Safety Instructor Development Opportunity

### Range Safety Officer Training

Saturday, September 12, 2015

9 AM - 6 PM

Richfield, MN

Must pre-register and pay a fee to attend this course. For more information on the fee and to register, go to the Minnesota Volunteer Safety Instructors Association website at [www.mvsia.org](http://www.mvsia.org).



## Safety Recalls for OHVs

services or information to help you with your class:

[Adaptive Equipment for Disabled Hunters](#)

[Alan Madison Videos](#)

[Ducks Unlimited](#)

[Instructor Page](#)

[Int'l HunterEducation Assoc](#)

[Izaak Walton League](#)

[MN Deer Hunters Assoc.](#)

[MN Shooting Ranges](#)

[MN Volunteer Instructor Association](#)

[Nat'l Bow Hunter Ed Foundation](#)

[Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation](#)

[Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation](#)

[Pheasants Forever Org.](#)

[Ruffed Grouse Society](#)

[Safari Club](#)

[Turn In Poachers](#)

MN DNR ATV Safety Instructors should be aware of product safety recalls relating to Off-Highway Vehicles and pass this along to parents in case they own an OHV under a Recall notice.

Within the last 7 months, recalls have been posted for ATVs, OHMs, and Side-by-Side OHVs.

These included brands from Arctic Cat, Yamaha, KTM, Can-Am and Honda. Recalls ranged from oil leaks (potential fire hazard), rear wheels falling off, gear box locking up and causing abrupt stoppage and crashes, and other reports of front forks sticking, causing operator to lose control and crash.

To find a product Recall on a specific brand of OHV, visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission website and find the Search box at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

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## Member of Onamia Firearms Safety Training Team Honored



On March 7 at a DNR Volunteer Instructor Forum in Milaca, John "Tom" Cunz was awarded a 30-year length of service award for his services to the DNR and Hunter Education and Firearms Safety.

Other members of the Onamia Instructor Team were also in attendance; from left to right: Don Zaske, Rich Blomer, Tom Cunz, and Tim Stout. Presenting the award are Conservation Officer Dan Starr (left) and Regional Training Officer Frank Rezac (right).

Thank you, and Congratulations, Tom!

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# DNR Education/Safety Training Partners with Outdoor News

The Education and Safety Training Section is once again partnering with *MN Outdoor News* publication to offer a free, 3-month youth subscription for anyone ages 11-17 who successfully completes firearms safety certification in 2015. Please remind your students of this offer during your class or field day! For more information, click on the link: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoornews/index.html>

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## And the Survey says....

It's always good to hear feedback from folks as a way to assess how things are going.

We provide a short Student Survey at the end of the Firearms Student Manual (it's on Page 161). Please take a moment in your classroom toward one of your last class sessions and encourage your students to fill it out. Students can either mail the evaluation in, or if you would like, collect them at the end of class and mail them to us with your rosters. These evaluations are a good way for us to hear from your students and provide us with a snapshot of what they have learned.

Surveys we have received have always been positive feedback and the students are appreciative of your knowledge and good work. Here are some examples:

"Was very happy to take the course; the instructor was very good and educational!"

"I learned a lot. The instructors taught me a lot about safety and gun handling."

Thank you again for donating your time and energy to teaching our future outdoor recreationists!

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