

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #2

How Many Bullet Holes Does It Take to Kill a Sign? (Sign Vandalism)

Sign vandalism is a serious problem. In Iowa, 1 in 10 signs is vandalized each year. Sign vandalism is illegal, it costs US taxpayers about \$414,300,000 annually, and it can confuse motorists and result in deadly crashes.

What is sign vandalism?

Sign vandalism includes the following:

- knocking down signs
- stealing signs
- shooting signs with a gun
- painting or marring signs
- bending signs or signposts

Repairing/replacing vandalized signs

It is important that vandalized signs be repaired or replaced as soon as possible because missing or damaged signs are a safety hazard. If a sign is damaged or removed, motorists could be deprived of important information, resulting in a collision. Moreover, neglecting to replace or fix damaged signs quickly can lead to even more severe vandalism.

Critical or regulatory signs (for example, speed limit signs and stop, yield, and “Do Not Enter” signs) should be repaired or replaced as a first priority. The second priority should be to replace or repair warning signs (for example, signs that alert motorists to potentially dangerous intersections and curves). The third priority should be to repair or replace guide signs (for example, signs that direct motorists to points of interest).

The general public can help by reporting damaged or missing signs to the proper authorities.

For more information

For more information, please contact _____.