

Contributing to AP Minnesota

Rule of thumb: If your story had happened elsewhere in the state or region, would you use it in your newspaper or newscast? If the answer is yes, offer the story to The Associated Press:

Minneapolis bureau:

E-mail: apminneapolis@ap.org

Toll-free: 1-800-552-7250

Or 612-332-2727

FAX: 612-342-5299

AP Members Want:

- Train wrecks, airplane crashes, drownings, fatal auto accidents (if there are multiple victims or unusual circumstances), snowmobile fatalities and unusual accidental deaths.
- Murders. A single metropolitan murder may not be news without some distinguishing circumstance (especially heinous, victim or perpetrator's age, etc.) while murder in a less populous part of the state is more likely to be of interest, at least regionally.
- Meetings where action of regional or statewide interest is taken or where a prominent person speaks.
- Riots, demonstrations, strikes.
- Major fires (involves loss of life, public disruption or destruction of a structure/site known statewide), explosions, oil or other chemical spills.
- Unusual bank robberies (exceptionally violent, hostages taken, serial robber, etc.).
- Weather news, including ice and hail storms, heavy snows, damaging rains and floods, record heat and cold, tornadoes.
- Human interest and feature stories. The odd, the offbeat, the heart-warming.

Don't Share:

- Non-fatal auto, boating or snowmobile accidents.
- Motor vehicle chases, unless major damage or loss of life occurs.
- Routine city council, school board or other public meetings, unless an issue being discussed is also being considered at similar meetings elsewhere -- such as state budget cuts, smoking bans, etc.
- Bomb threats (unless a MAJOR public disruption results), petty crimes, minor drug busts, minor or non-fatal fires.
- Suicides or obituaries unless the person is known regionally or statewide or unusual circumstances are involved.
- Publicity handouts, including local pageant winners, fund-raisers and charity events.

Remember:

- Include pronouncers, accurate name spellings and attribution.
- Offer finished stories, notes or just tips.

The strength of the AP state report depends largely on its members' contributions. While we encourage and appreciate all story offerings, breaking news circumstances on any given day can dictate whether an otherwise good story goes unused.

Regular contact between the AP and its members is important, even if AP passes on a particular story. Don't stop contributing if a story isn't used. Direct questions or concerns about story decisions to News Editor Doug Glass or Bureau Chief Dave Pyle.