

FROM SURPLUS TO SAFETY

May 1, 2013 - Today's new snow storm is a perfect chance to share the story of the rescue efforts of a Minnesota police chief during our last spring snow storm.

Three stranded motorists were rescued April 18 in Tracy. They made it to safety thanks to the determination of Police Chief Jason Lichty who used a surplus military vehicle the department received free of charge through the Minnesota Law Enforcement Support Office (MN-LESO) program.



Chief Lichty got called out at 10:30 that night by Lyon County Dispatch. Motorists in two vehicles were stranded in a snowstorm on Highway 14. Lichty drove a Humvee the department received through the surplus military equipment program administered by HSEM.

“I took out the H1, as we call it, and it performed flawlessly,” said Chief Lichty. He rescued a couple that had been stranded for more than an hour and a half in the snow and 45 mile-per-hour winds. “The snow was blowing so hard that by the time I loaded up my passengers and turned around my tracks were completely drifted in.”

Lichty also rescued a young man stuck in the ditch that night. Lichty says the H1 made it through the deep snow drifts with no problems and served the exact purpose we intended it for.

The surplus equipment program makes many forms of equipment available to law enforcement offices in the state. It can range from vehicles to night vision goggles to office equipment.

[Learn more about the MN-LESO program here](#)