



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2007 Number 4

Internet Safety

Parents: Your kids can read this: [A/S/L](#), [IPN](#), [LMIRL](#), [NAZ](#), [P911](#), [PAW](#), [WTGP](#). Can you?*

30 million children under the age of 18 use the internet. The internet is valuable, but it is also a powerful tool that comes with its own set of dangers. As parents, you work hard to protect your children. You make them wear a helmet when riding a bike. You slowly give them greater freedom and watch them closely to make sure they are safe. The internet is no different. The best way to keep kids safe online is to stay involved and keep the lines of communication open!

What you can do:

-  **Prepare your children for the world of the internet, just like you do for the real world.** Talk to your kids. Let them know what the dangers are. Set rules and guidelines. Know who your children are talking to and make sure they know who they are talking to! Never let kids meet someone in person that they have only met online.
-  **Become familiar with the internet yourself.** Know what the dangers are. (Check out "Online Safety Resources".) Know what programs / sites your kids are using.
-  **Keep the computer in a common room.** Don't let kids have computers in their rooms.
-  **Make sure kids don't share personal information online.** This is more than their name and address. It includes anything that can be used to find them, like schools and sports teams. Don't write anything that you wouldn't put on the front page of the paper. Anything put on the internet is FOREVER!
-  **Keep communication open.** If your child makes a mistake, or they get harassed or sexually solicited, let them know they can talk to you. When children feel alone, they are the most vulnerable.

Learning the dangers and educating your kids are the first steps toward keeping your children safe online.

* [Answers to above](#) [A/S/L](#): age, sex, location [IPN](#): I'm posting naked. [LMIRL](#): Let's meet in real life. [NAZ](#): name, address, zip code [P911](#): My parents are coming! [PAW](#): Parents are watching. [WTGP](#): Want to go private?

Online Safety Resources

www.netSMART.org
www.missingkids.org
www.cybertipline.org
www.icra.org
www.isafe.org
www.getnetwise.org

Street Parking Restrictions:

Year-round Parking Restrictions:

Vehicles cannot be parked on any public city street between the hours of **2:00-5:00 AM**. To request an overnight parking permit, contact the Plymouth Police Department at 763-509-5160.

Street Parking in Snow Emergencies:

Vehicles may not be parked on any street when snowfall exceeds 2 ½ inches until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb.

Holiday Shopping Safety Reminders

Holidays are supposed to be full of cheer. Don't let a criminal ruin your holiday. Take a few simple steps and reduce the chances of becoming a victim! Keep purses with you at all times. Don't put them in the basket of a shopping cart. If you drop packages off at your car, keep purchases out of view by locking them in your trunk. Criminals often walk through parking lots to look for newly purchased gifts left in cars. Also, be sure to keep the receipts separate from the purchased items. If you don't, criminals can return the items for cash before you know they're gone! Stay safe and best wishes for a happy New Year!

**Crime Free Multi-Housing
Corner:**

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Minnesota State Statute 299F.50 to 51 has established that “every single family dwelling and every dwelling unit in a multifamily dwelling must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.” The law is currently in effect for all newly constructed buildings (constructed after January 1, 2007). The law will take effect for all existing single family units on August 1, 2008 and for all existing multi-family dwellings on August 1, 2009. Start planning now!

TRAFFIC TIP

Buckle up!

**Seatbelts are required for all
front seat passengers and
anyone under the age of 11,
no matter where they are sitting.
Stay safe this holiday season!**

**Featured Crime Prevention Program:
Along for the Ride**

Tune into Cable Channel 16 Thursdays at noon, Fridays at 6 p.m. or Sundays at 6 p.m., to see the Plymouth Police’s ½ hour informational television show, *Along for the Ride*. Shows cover topics related to safety, crime trends, and much more! In addition, we answer viewer questions on the air, so tune in to see if we answer yours! If you have a question or topic suggestion for *Along for the Ride*, please call 763-509-5139. The show can also be seen on Cable Channel 20, Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m.

**Especially for Business
Robbery Prevention**

Armed robbery is one of the most dangerous crimes faced by businesses. The holiday season typically brings an increase in robberies. All businesses should take steps to reduce the chance of being the victim of a robbery. In addition, employees need to be trained so they know what to do in the event of a robbery. No amount of money is worth a human life. Knowing what to do during and after a robbery is essential in keeping your employees safe. To schedule robbery training for your business, contact Sgt. Jeff Swiatkiewicz at 763-509-5194.

Special note for financial institutions:

If you have not had your annual alarm response training, or you have had some turn-over in staff since the last training, please schedule a bank alarm training to review proper response in these situations. The training is brief, but important. Help keep your employees and customers safe! Call 763-509-5194 now to schedule your training session.

Fraud Stop: Charitable Giving Scams

As the end of the year and holidays approach, more people are giving to charitable organizations. However, it is still important to be wary of fraud. Charitable giving scams target those wanting to help, especially when a tragedy or disaster occurs. Scams are sent to victims via email requests, letters, or phone calls. Scammers often use legitimate-sounding names and ask for donations. However, the donation does not end up going to the victim or agency it was intended for, or if it does, the percentage is extremely small.

Avoid being a victim:

1. Never respond to unsolicited emails or phone calls from charities asking for money. Contact the charity directly.
2. Research the organization prior to contributing. Know where your donation is going and how it will be used. Ask for information about the charity in writing. Remember, not all donations are tax deductible.

Emergency: **9-1-1** Non-emergency: **763-525-6210** Crime Information Line: **763-509-5177**

If you have any comments about this newsletter, please contact Officer Angela Haseman at the Plymouth Police Department, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55447, 763-509-5147 or at ahaseman@ci.plymouth.mn.us. Thank you!