



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2007 Number 3

Vehicle Crashes: Facts and Prevention

In 2006, there were 78,745 motor vehicle crashes, resulting in 35,025 injuries and 494 fatalities. The economic cost to Minnesota was staggering: \$1.6 *billion*. Although 2006 had the fewest number of crashes since the 1960s and the lowest number of deaths since 1945, we still have a long way to go.

2006 Crash Facts:

- ✉ **Young drivers are the most likely to be involved in a crash.** Teens make up only 7% of the driving population, yet are involved in 14% of crashes. In comparison, drivers age 65 and over make up 15% of the population, yet are involved in only 7% of crashes. Moreover, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for young people. 40% of those killed in traffic crashes were under age 30.
- ✉ **Males are more likely to be involved in a crash.** 55% of drivers in all crashes were male, and 72% of drivers in fatal crashes were male.
- ✉ **Alcohol is still a major factor.** 124 of the 166 people who died in alcohol-related crashes were drinking themselves. Minnesota had a record number of DWI arrests in 2006: 41,842. Of these, 69% were male, 53% were 21-34, and 10% were under the age of 21...not even legal to drink!

What you can do:

- ✉ **Slow down, pay attention, and don't drink and drive--every day!** Illegal/unsafe speed and driver inattention are 2 top reasons for crashes. Failure to yield the right of way is another main factor, as is alcohol consumption. For youth, driver inexperience is a big factor. In addition, the majority of crashes occur in daylight and good weather. In fact, July is the deadliest month on our roadways.
- ✉ **Wear your seat belt!** Even if you drive safely, you still have to protect yourself from other drivers. Wearing a seatbelt can help reduce your chance of being seriously injured or killed in a crash.

Making simple changes in driving behavior can help reduce your chance of being involved in a crash. For more crash facts, go to: www.dps.state.mn.us and check out the 2006 Crash Facts. Drive safely!

The Plymouth Police Explorer Program: Join Now!

The Explorer program is designed to introduce young people to the career of law enforcement. Explorers interact with police officers on a regular basis and learn first hand what the duties and responsibilities are of police officers. Applications are now being accepted. Call 763-509-5008 x 7859 for more information.

Minimum eligibility:

- Between the ages of 14 and 20 years old.
- No past criminal police contact and no more than 2 violations on their driving record
- Must be able to attend weekly meetings.

Operation: Youth update

Operation: Youth is the police department's newest program, aimed at building bridges with youth in our community. Operation: Youth kicked off in May at Plymouth Colony Apartments. The program is open to all youth between the ages of 10 and 14. Youth meet with an officer every Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to play games, discuss safety, and learn about the police department. The program is free, but youth must have parent/guardian permission to participate. Operation: Youth moves to Lakeview Commons on September 11, 2007. To find out more about Operation: Youth or to register, call 763-509-5147.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Corner: Trespassing

What options do you have when a non-tenant is causing problems on your property? The easiest answer is to trespass that individual. Official trespass forms are available from the Police Department. Forms can be issued by a resident (to keep someone from their own unit) or management (to keep people off the property). Some things to remember when filling out trespassing forms:

1. You cannot trespass current tenants. To evict tenants, you must go through proper legal proceedings.
2. There must be a *specific basis* for trespassing someone (fighting, vandalism, etc.). In addition, that behavior must have occurred within the past *30 days*.
3. Forms must be served *in person*. Mailing a copy to the individual will not suffice.
4. You may trespass for a period up to *1 year*.
5. You can serve the form yourself. The person must sign acknowledging they received a copy. If they refuse to sign, give them a copy, and then have your copy notarized.
6. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself and *send the remaining 2 copies to the Plymouth Police Department* to make it official.
7. If you feel uncomfortable serving a trespass notice yourself, call 9-1-1 for police assistance.

If you have questions about trespassing, please call 763-509-5147 or 9-1-1 to speak to an officer.

Featured Crime Prevention Program: Amber Stick

Getting police accurate information fast is essential in finding missing persons. The AMBER stick is a portable electronic (flash drive) identification device that can be carried on a keychain that enables police to download the profile of a missing person within seconds. The AMBER stick was created for missing children, but it can be used for all members of the family, especially vulnerable adults. The AMBER stick is available for \$20. To reserve your AMBER stick, call 763-509-5198.

Especially for Business

Reducing Internal Employee Theft

1. **Review your hiring practices.** Check the credentials of potential employees.
2. **Analyze your business procedures and policies.** Each business function should have a check-and-balance control. Keep the operational and accounting functions separate. Don't allow the person responsible for receiving or disbursing goods, services, or money to do the accounting.
3. **Evaluate your personal practices.** Keep clear lines of authority and responsibility. Don't overlook losses or practice favoritism.
4. **Establish a loss prevention program.** Monitor the program at regular intervals to deter employees looking for ways to defeat it. One way to check if your security procedures are working is to deliberately inject errors into the system.
5. **Keep an eye out for "high-risk" employees.** By establishing clear policies and reducing opportunity, you can help reduce internal theft.

TRAFFIC TIP

Pedestrians have the right of way!

If someone is crossing at an intersection or marked crosswalk, you must stop your car until they have passed your lane!

So stop for pedestrians!

Fraud Stop: BBB Scam

A new phishing email fraud has surfaced and has been circulating since May 2007. The email claims to be from the BBB (Better Business Bureau). The email states that a BBB complaint has been filed by someone against your business. When the victim clicks on the link embedded in the email, a malicious keylogger program is downloaded. Keylogging programs record keystrokes, making passwords and other personal information vulnerable to identity thieves. The BBB scam is sophisticated, because unlike most phishing emails that are very generic, the BBB email is tailored to the specific recipient and looks like actual complaint notices sent by the BBB. Another variation claims to be from the IRS. If you receive a complaint notice from the BBB, the best course of action is to contact the BBB directly, and not click on any links. (Source: www.scambusters.com)

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!