



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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Helping Teens Be Safer Drivers

In Minnesota, the leading cause of death for teens is traffic crashes. In fact, Minnesota has a higher percentage of fatal crashes involving teen drivers than any other state. But the problem goes beyond the tragedy of these lost lives. Although teens account for only 7% of the driving population, they are involved in 14% of all traffic crashes. This means, each year, one in 10 teen drivers is involved in a traffic crash.

Driver inattention or distraction is a major factor in all teen crashes. Driver distraction is anything that takes attention away from the mental and physical requirements of safely operating a motor vehicle. Distracted driving is a factor in 25% of all teen crashes. One type of distraction teens have: friends. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, a 16-year old driver who adds 1 passenger increases their risk of being fatally injured in a car crash by 39%; adding a 2nd passenger increases the risk by 86%; and adding a 3rd passenger increases the risk an astounding 282%. Moreover, nationwide, 2 out of every 3 teens that die in traffic crashes were passengers in vehicles driven by other teens. Another major distraction is the cell phone. It is estimated that there are 14,000 Minnesotans driving and talking on cell phones at any given time. Although using a cell phone while driving is dangerous no matter what a person's age, it is particularly dangerous for teens, who have limited experience behind the wheel.

Drinking and Driving

"Not a Drop"

It is illegal for a person under the age of 21 to drive after consuming any amount of alcohol.

Vanessa's Law

Teen drivers with provisional licenses whose driving privileges are revoked from a crash or alcohol/ drug-related violation cannot regain a license until age 18.

In addition, Minnesota has also has licensing restrictions for alcohol, drug, and crash violations. (See inserts.) Hopefully, these laws will help our teens stay safe behind the wheel. Although teens are more at risk for crashes, everyone should concentrate on driving and always wear their seatbelt!

New Teen Driver Safety Laws

Teen Passenger Limitations

For the first 6 months of licensure, only 1 passenger under the age of 20 is permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For the second 6 months of licensure, no more than 3 passengers under the age of 20 are permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Exemption: Immediate family members.

Nighttime Driving Limitation

For the first 6 months of licensure, driving is prohibited between midnight and 5 a.m.

Exemptions: Accompanied by driver over 25, driving between home and work, driving to/from school event, driving for work.

Featured Crime Prevention Program: **AMBER Stick**

Getting information fast is essential in finding missing persons. The AMBER stick is a portable flash drive that enables police to download the profile of a missing person within seconds. The AMBER stick was created for children, but it can be used for all members of the family, including vulnerable adults and pets. The AMBER stick is available for \$20. To buy an AMBER stick, call 763-509-5198.

Especially for Businesses Reducing False Burglary Alarms

The majority of burglary alarms police respond to are false. Not only do repeated false alarms cost you money through fines, they also cause mistrust of the alarm system itself. When you cannot trust your alarm to do what it is designed to do—detect criminal activity—it loses its effectiveness, making your business vulnerable to burglary. To reduce false alarm, train all staff on how to operate the alarm system, when to activate the system, and how to cancel a false alarm...then provide regular refreshers. By taking these steps, you can protect your investment and keep trust in your alarm system.

TRAFFIC TIP

It is illegal for drivers of all ages to compose, read, or send text messages or access the Internet on a wireless device while on the road.

Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner:

Mandatory CFMH Training

Plymouth rental licensing ordinance 410 now requires that owners or managers of rental property, *who own or manage more than one rental unit*, must complete Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) training prior to their next license renewal. CFMH training is an 8-hour class covering topics such as: applicant screening, fair housing, understanding Section 8, fire safety and prevention, holding tenant meetings, legal issues, mediation, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, working with the police, and recognizing illegal activity. For CFMH certification, participants must attend the full 8 hours of training. Owners and managers will then be required to attend a refresher once every three years.

Plymouth is co-hosting two upcoming trainings: **Saturday, September 20, 2008** (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) and **November 19 and 20, 2008** (5-9 p.m. both nights). For more information or to request a registration form, call 763-509-5147. Cost is \$25 per person.

Fraud Stop: UPS Scam

Scammers are using an official looking UPS notification to install a Trojan onto victims' computers. The victim receives an email advising that UPS tried to deliver a package to them, but was unable to because of an incorrect address. A fake UPS tracking number is used in the email subject line and the email tells the victim to print out an attachment that is needed to collect the package from a UPS office. This attachment is a ".zip" file and looks like a Word document. However, when the attachment is opened, it installs a Trojan program that can disable firewalls, search for financial information, and allow hackers to access the victim's computer. UPS does send emails to customers, but they do not normally use attachments. (For more on the UPS scam, go to www.ups.com.) A similar scam, using US Customs, advises victims they have an international package and the attachment needs to be filled out in order for the package to be delivered. Again, when the attachment is opened, the Trojan goes to work. Both scams appear to affect PCs only. Remember, if you get an email with an attachment, the safest thing to do is just delete it, then contact the company directly. **Never** click on a link or open an attachment. In addition, make sure your security software is up-to-date. (Source: www.scambusters.org)

New Dangerous Weapons and Facsimile Firearms Ordinance

Plymouth Ordinance 965 prohibits the carrying of dangerous weapons and facsimile firearms or transporting these weapons in a vehicle, unless they are secured in a container or in a locked trunk. In addition, the ordinance prohibits the aiming of dangerous weapons or facsimile firearms, whether loaded or unloaded, at or toward any human being, building, or occupied vehicle. The intent of the ordinance is not to chase around kids that are playing "Cops and Robbers", but it is to hold those that use these items in a dangerous or threatening manner, or to commit a crime, accountable for their actions. A brochure (*Dangerous Weapons and "Look Alike" Guns*) explaining the ordinance and what constitutes a dangerous weapon or facsimile firearm is available to the public. *Dangerous Weapons and "Look Alike" Guns* can be picked up at the Plymouth Police Department or a copy can be mailed upon request. Call 763-509-5147 to request a brochure.

Emergency: **9-1-1**

Non-emergency: **763-525-6210**

Crime Tip 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!