



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2008 Number 2

Burglary and Theft: Don't be a Victim

Although Plymouth is a safe place to live, crimes do occur. Every summer, police see an increase in residential burglaries and thefts from parked cars. Police cannot stop all crime alone. We need your help! It is important for everyone to take basic safety precautions to help reduce the chance of becoming a victim of crime. In addition, because you know your neighborhood best, we need you to be our eyes and ears. Call 9-1-1 immediately when you see suspicious activity happening. *Suspicious activity is anything that seems unusual to you*, such as people lurking around homes, hiding from passing traffic, or looking into cars.

Burglary

A burglary happens when a criminal enters a home (or business) for the purpose of committing a crime. There does not have to be forced entry and the thief does not have to enter a person's living space. Thefts from garages are also considered burglaries. Although many crimes occur during the night time hours, many residential burglaries also happen during the day. Criminals usually gain entrance into homes through open overhead garage doors or unlocked garage service doors, but unlocked sliding glass doors and windows are also vulnerable areas.

Theft

A theft happens when personal property is stolen. One of the most common types of theft is theft from parked cars. Thefts from cars take very little time and can happen anywhere: at home, at businesses, at day cares, at parks, *anywhere!* To help reduce theft from your car, **always** lock your car and remove valuables from your car. If you can't do this, at the very least, lock valuables in the trunk prior to arriving at your destination. Remember that cell phones, CDs, Ipods, stereo equipment, GPS units, purses, portable TVs, etc. are *all* tempting to thieves.

Burglary Prevention Tips

- Keep your overhead garage door closed at all times.
- Lock all exterior doors to your home, including garage service doors, even when you are home.
- Keep windows closed and locked.
- Make your home look occupied when you are gone, especially when you are gone for long periods of time.
- Call 9-1-1 right away if you see suspicious activity.
- Consider having a Premise Security Survey done. This is a free service to Plymouth residents. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-509-5147.

By taking some basic safety precautions, you can help reduce your chance of becoming a victim.



Featured Crime Prevention Program: McGruff Truck

Next time you see a City of Plymouth vehicle, check it out! If you see McGruff on the side of the truck, it is a safe place to go in case of emergency. If your child is a victim of bullying, is lost, has been approached by a stranger, or you are the victim of a crime and do not have access to a phone, McGruff trucks can help! McGruff truck drivers know how to contact police and they will provide a safe place for you or your child to wait for the police. Teach children to wave down a McGruff truck with both hands from a safe distance, preferably from the sidewalk. Never run out into the street or approach the truck from behind. So next time you are out, look for McGruff. Help take a bite out of crime!

Street 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.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Corner: Mediation

Community Mediation Services, Inc. (CMS) provides **free** mediation for Plymouth residents. Mediation is a voluntary process where a neutral mediator assists disputants reach a mutually satisfactory settlement of their dispute. Mediation is a great option for:

- ✓ Landlord / Tenant Disputes
- ✓ Neighbor / Neighbor Disputes
- ✓ Juvenile Issues
- ✓ Harassment
- ✓ **Any** dispute *except* assault and felony crimes

Landlords can refer residents directly to CSM. CSM will contact the referred parties and advise them of the proposed mediation. All parties must agree to mediate. For more information, call CSM at 763-561-0033 or go to www.mediationprogram.com.

TRAFFIC TIP

Don't Litter! It is illegal to throw or leave bottles, nails, wires, cans, or anything else that might harm others onto a public roadway.

Especially for Business Submitting Embezzlement Cases

Embezzlement can cost businesses thousands of dollars. Sometimes embezzlement cases are simple. Other times, they are extremely complicated. To aid in the successful investigation and prosecution of embezzlement cases, our Investigations Unit has guidelines for submitting cases:

1. Designate **one representative** to be a liaison for the detective assigned to your case.
2. Create a written synopsis in chronological order of the theft, in paragraph form.
3. Present material in a bound format (3-ring binders work best.) *Don't staple documents together.*
4. Create a list classifying the types of losses your business suffered.
5. Create a spreadsheet (landscape format) listing the individual incidents of embezzlement.
6. Assign each incident with a separate item number and include supporting documents in a tab-indexed manner.

Upon receipt, the police department will determine if the case meets statute elements of embezzlement and if the case will be assigned to a detective.

If you have questions about submitting embezzlement cases call Sgt. Joe Gebhardt or any property crimes detective at 763-509-5160.

Fraud Stop: Tax Scams Tax Rebate Scams

With the new government stimulus package rolling out, scammers are already trying to cash in. Scammers phone victims and ask them for their bank account numbers, so "the IRS can deposit the rebate directly into the victim's account." They may also ask for other personal or financial information. Victims may be told that if they fail to provide the information, they will not get their rebate check. This scam may also appear via email. **Remember, you do not have to do anything to get your rebate except file taxes! For more information about how and when rebates will be issued, go to www.irs.gov.**

IRS Audit Scams

Victims receive an official-looking **email** telling the victim they are being audited by the IRS. The victim is told to complete the attached form or click on a link. The email warns if the victim fails to do so, they will face strict penalties. The victim is asked to provide personal or financial information. The email looks official, with IRS logos and an "@irs.gov" address and the attachments look like actual tax forms. **Remember, the IRS will NEVER initiate contact with taxpayers by email or phone advising them of an audit or ask for personal or financial information, your social security number or bank information. If you file taxes, they have all the information they need! For more information about the IRS, go to www.irs.gov.**

A Reminder about Fireworks: Summer is here and the 4th of July is coming. Remember that any fireworks that explode or go up in the air are **ILLEGAL!** Stay safe this summer!

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!