



# Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2010 Number 4

## See Something, Say Something!

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City killing 168 and injuring over 800. In 2001, terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, killing more than 3,000 people and anthrax was sent in the mail killing several people around the country. Right after the attacks in 2001, we understood our vulnerability to terrorist attack. However, it has been nearly a decade since the United States has been the victim of a large-scale terrorist attack and we have started to forget America is still vulnerable. Around the world, terrorist activity occurs on a routine basis and the US is not immune. It is not a matter of *if* another terrorist attack will occur, but *when* and *where*. It is important to remain vigilant, even here in Plymouth.

Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property for the purposes of fear, intimidation, coercion, or ransom. Terrorists commit criminal acts in an attempt to force changes in society or make governments alter policies in ways that will further the terrorists' cause. They believe their cause is worth any death, injury, and damage done by their actions.

There are two types of terrorism: domestic and international. Domestic groups are based entirely in the US and target the government or its citizens at home. International terrorism is foreign-based and targets the US government and its citizens both at home and around the world. Most people are concerned about international terrorism because of 9/11. However, terrorists can be *anyone*. In fact, 90% of terrorism in the US is domestic, meaning most terrorist attacks in America are committed by fellow Americans.

Although most people think that terrorists only strike "big" targets, like NYC or LA, more terrorists are acting alone, in their own communities. It is important everyone be aware and if you see something, say something! As with any criminal activity, law enforcement needs *your* help to fight terrorism. Police cannot be everywhere, so we need the public to be our eyes and ears. Be alert for suspicious *behavior*, including:

**Surveillance:** People monitoring a facility or event that could be a target, including taking photos or video of security, taking notes, drawing diagrams, or using binoculars. The activity seems "out-of-place."

**Gathering intelligence:** People attempting to gather information about a facility or event that could be a target by mail, fax, phone, or in person. The questions seem more detailed than a general inquiry.

**"Tooling Up:"** People buying or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, vehicles, false ids, chemicals (that can be used to make a bomb), or anything else that might help commit the attack. Places where bombs are made, like residences, may have unusual chemical smells or damage from leaks.

**Training and rehearsing:** Terrorists often do a "dry run" of the attack. They may place bags, brief cases, or other objects in a crowded place and leave them unattended to see if anyone will alert security. They may test other security measures, map traffic patterns, or time traffic signals.

Remember, **how a person looks is *not* important. A person's behavior *is* important.** It is the behavior that indicates potential terrorist or other criminal activity. Stopping just one step in a terrorist plan can prevent an attack. Be aware of suspicious activity. Be alert at home, work, school, the mall - everywhere! If you see something, say something by calling 911 right away.



**Report suspicious activity *immediately* by calling 911.** Give as much information as possible, including a description of the activity, where the activity is, a description of the suspects and/or vehicle, any weapons, and a direction of travel.

**Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner:  
2011 CFMH Trainings and Quarterly  
Meeting Schedule**

The Plymouth Police Department is pleased to announce a 2 part evening Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Phase 1 training on **Wednesday, February 16 and Thursday, February 17, 2011** from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Police Department. The cost to attend the training is \$25, which includes dinner, snacks, and a training manual. A registration brochure can be found on the Plymouth website: [www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov).

The schedule for the 2011 quarterly Crime Free Rental meetings has been set. All meetings are from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Managers/owners who attend all four meetings will receive a refresher certificate.

01/11/11 Location: Plymouth PD Topic: Pest Control

04/14/11 Location: TBD Topic: TBD

07/07/11 Location: TBD Topic: TBD

10/13/11 Location: TBD Topic: TBD

If you would like to host a meeting, call 763-509-5147.

*Working together, we can make a difference!*

**Especially for Business:**Who do we call?

Imagine: It is 2:00 am and there is an emergency at your business: a burglary or a fire. Who do the police contact? The Plymouth Police Department would like to remind businesses to keep their “on-call” lists up-to-date! The dispatch center keeps a list of contact phone numbers for use in an after-hours emergency. It is very important that the list is kept current. To update the emergency contact information for your business, call 763-509-5147. Thank you!

**Did you know?**

**Kids must be home by the following times:**  
**11 & under: 9 pm (Sun-Thurs), 10 pm (Fri-Sat)**  
**12-14: 10 pm (Sun-Thurs), 11 pm (Fri-Sat)**  
**15-17: 11 pm (Sun-Thurs), midnight (Fri-Sat)**

**Home Alone Guidelines**

Parents often wonder when a child can be left home alone. Child Protection Services offers these guidelines:

- Children under 8 may not be left alone.
- Children 8 or 9 may be left unattended for normal latchkey hours (up to 2 hours)
- Children 10-13 may be left unattended up to 12 hours
- Children 14-17 may be left unattended up to 24 hours
- No child under the age of 11 should baby sit younger children

However, a child's age is not the only consideration. Some children may be fine alone while others might not be ready to assume the responsibility of self-care. The Plymouth Police and Fire department has a Home Alone Workshop that will help parents evaluate if their child is ready to be home alone, prepare their homes so that they are ready for a stay-at-home child, and create house rules to keep kids safe. The workshop is \$5 per person. Children must be in at least 4th grade to participate. Call 763-509-5198 to learn about upcoming workshops.

**Fraud Stop: Overpayment Scams**

This scam targets people who are selling items or renting property. A buyer will contact a seller and agree to buy or rent the item/property. The victim will be sent a check to purchase the item in an amount in excess of the asking price. The buyer says this is a mistake and requests the seller send back the difference. The seller sends the item and a check for the difference and later finds out the original check the buyer sent is a fake. The victim loses the item they sold and the money they sent back to cover the “difference.” **Avoid being a victim.** Never agree to accept overpayments for items and send back the difference.

**Featured Safety Programs: File of Life**

What if there is a medical emergency and no one is around to let emergency personnel know what your medical history is, what your medications or allergies are, or who to contact? The File of Life program is a way to keep important medical information easily accessible to police and ambulance personnel in the event of a medical emergency. The File of Life packet is kept at home, on your refrigerator. Call 763-509-5147 to request **free** File of Life packets.

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Emergency: **9-1-1**      Non-emergency: **763-525-6210**      CrimeStoppers: **800-222-TIPS**

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@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:ahaseman@plymouthmn.gov). Thank you!