



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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Winter Driving Safety

Snow, ice, and increasing darkness all make winter driving more hazardous. Stay safe this winter! Follow some simple steps to help reduce the dangers of winter driving.

- * Before driving, always clear snow and ice from your car. Not only is driving with a frost covered windshield dangerous, but it is also illegal to drive with an obstructed windshield. In addition, take time to clear snow off the roof of your car. Snow left on your roof can fly off while driving, affecting drivers behind you and possibly cause an accident.
- * Allow extra time for travel. Reduce speeds in snow, ice, or sleet. Remember, it may not be safe to travel at the posted speed limit in some conditions!
- * Evaluate road conditions. In hazardous conditions, decide if your trip is really worth taking. If you need to be out in bad weather, constantly re-evaluate the road conditions. Remember, rain, mist, and car exhaust can all freeze on the road if the temperature falls fast enough.
- * Don't overestimate the ability of your car to stop on snow or ice-covered roads. Leave extra space between you and the car in front of you and slow down soon when approaching intersections. Remember, four-wheeled drive vehicles have great starting traction, but will not stop any faster on ice!
- * Never pass a snowplow. Plows have limited ability to see and it is their job to clear roads to make them safe for everyone to use. For your safety, stay back at least 100 feet from plows.
- * Keep a snow survival kit in your car. The kit should include: a metal cup, matches and candles, a flashlight with spare batteries, bottled water and snacks, a first aid kit, a red bandana and whistle (to alert rescuers), a pencil, paper, and a charged cell phone.
- * Also keep extra clothing, hats, boots, mittens, blankets, jumper cables, a basic tool box, a bag of sand or other grit for traction, tow cables, and flares or reflectors in your car.
- * If stranded, stay with your car. Chances of survival are reduced if you leave your vehicle.
- * Don't leave your car running with the keys in it, not even for a few minutes. Many cars are stolen every year when the owners leave their cars running.
- * Never leave children in the car! Children left in a running car are at risk if a thief decides to try to steal your car. In addition, extreme temperatures are very dangerous for children.
- * If you celebrate the holiday season with alcohol, don't get behind the wheel of a car. Buzzed driving is drunk driving, so have a plan before the party. Designate a sober driver and get home safely.

Did you know?

In 2005:

- 35% of all traffic fatalities were alcohol-related
- July was the deadliest month.
- There were 36,870 DWI arrests

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.

Street Parking in Snow Emergencies:

No vehicle may be parked on any street when snowfall exceeds 2 ½ inches until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb.

Follow these tips every time you leave the house this winter and drive safely!

Fraud Stop

Average loss to check fraud: \$1,100
Average loss to identity theft: \$2,000
Average loss to "Nigerian scams": \$3,864
Staying alert: Priceless

Are you wondering if that email (or letter or phone call) you got asking for money, personal information, or telling you about possible financial windfall is true? Are you trying to stay on top of the new cons and frauds out there? Now there is a great resource for you: www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com. The site is hosted by the FBI and US Postal Inspection Service and has updated information on current internet frauds, victim's stories, and other valuable information to help keep you from becoming the victim of a fraud. Check it out!

Especially for Business

Armed robbery is one of the most serious and dangerous crimes faced by businesses. All businesses should take steps to reduce the chance of becoming the victim of a robbery. In addition, businesses need to train their employees 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 Officer Angela Haseman at 763-509-5147.

Upcoming CFMH training

The Plymouth Police Department is pleased to announce that we will once again host a Crime Free Multi-Housing Day 1 training. The training is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the Plymouth Police Department. The cost for the training is \$25, which includes breakfast, lunch, and a training manual. If you attended a CFMH Day 1 training in the past, but it has been a few come to the half-day refresher for This class is invaluable for multi-family housing managers, owners, employees and single-family rental owners. Registration will begin in December. Call 763-509-5147 to request a registration form. Working together, we can make a difference!



Along for the Ride

Tune in to "Along for the Ride" Wednesdays at 8:30 PM on cable Channel 20. Get to know the Plymouth Police Department in a whole new way! Contact us at alongfortheride@ci.plymouth.mn.us or 509-5139.

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!

Featured Crime Prevention Program: Vehicle theft prevention devices

Give the gift of safety this holiday season. In 2005, Plymouth had 51 vehicles stolen. Don't become the next victim. Locking your car and taking the keys with you are the first lines of defense. The next step is to make your car a less likely target. Steering wheel locking devices, like "The Club", can deter criminals who are looking for an easy target. The Plymouth Police Department offers anti-vehicle theft devices, otherwise known as "The Club" for minimal cost: \$10 for car models and \$13 for SUV/truck models. Call 763-509-5147 for more information.

If you see suspicious activity, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Corner

Mediation: A Successful Option for Neighbor Disputes

*"My upstairs neighbor walks too loud."
"The baby next door cries all night and I can't sleep."
"I can't stand my neighbor smoking on the patio."*

There aren't many things more frustrating for managers, or the tenants who are involved, than a neighbor dispute. You may not want to lose either tenant, but the constant complaining is getting out-of-control and it may cause you to lose both tenants.

One solution to this problem is mediation. Community Mediation Services, Inc. is a free service to Plymouth residents. All that is needed to begin the mediation process is for the parties involved to agree to meet with a neutral mediator. The mediator will set up a mutually convenient time and place to meet and will assist the parties in reaching an agreement to settle the dispute.

Mediation is successful the majority of the time and it is a great option to use in many types of disputes. To make a referral to Community Mediation, or to get more information about the service, call 763-561-0033.