



# Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

Volume 2011 Number 3

## New Steps to Fight Drunk Driving

*The good news:* Minnesota has been experiencing a downward trend in traffic fatalities for the past three years. In 2010, there were 411 traffic deaths in Minnesota, which is the lowest number since 1944.

*The bad news:* Alcohol-related crashes still make up one-third of all Minnesota traffic fatalities, resulting in 131 deaths in 2010. In addition, more than 30,000 motorists were arrested for DWI last year.

One in seven drivers in Minnesota have a DWI on their record and an astounding 40% of those will re-offend. In an effort to eliminate drunk driving, Minnesota enacted stronger DWI sanctions July 1, 2011. Now, in addition to the existing penalties, *all repeat DWI offenders*, as well as first-time offenders arrested with an alcohol-concentration of .16 or more, must use an ignition interlock device on any vehicle they drive for at least one year or face at least one year without driving privileges. The ignition interlock provision was implemented to help stop high risk DWI offenders from re-offending. An ignition interlock is a small device that is installed in a vehicle, paid for by the offender, to measure an individual's alcohol concentration level. The device is installed near the steering wheel and connected to the engine. When a person blows into the device his/her alcohol concentration level is detected. If the individual has been drinking and tries to start the vehicle, the vehicle will not start. The device is also designed to collect random breath samples while the vehicle is being driven. Violations can result in loss of driving privileges or other charges. (See box, right.)

### Ignition Interlock Violations

The following are all **misdemeanors**:

- ✗ For a person who has an ignition interlock restricted license to drive a vehicle without a functioning ignition interlock device.
- ✗ For a person to knowingly lend, rent, or lease a vehicle not equipped with an ignition interlock device to a person who has an ignition interlock restricted license.
- ✗ To tamper with, circumvent, or bypass the ignition interlock or assist someone to do so.

The ignition interlock is a step in the right direction. However, it is important to remember that the fight against drunk driving is one everyone must engage in. Always have a plan for a sober ride before you drink—designate a sober driver, take a cab, use public transportation, call a sober friend or relative for a ride, walk, or even plan on spending the night at a friend's. Working together, we can eliminate the drunk driving.

## Halloween Safety Tips

Kids are back in school and Halloween is not too far away. Halloween can be a fun holiday, but make sure to follow these tips to help children stay safe while trick-or-treating:



- 🍎 Make sure costumes fit. If costumes are too big, they may be a trip hazard.
- 🍎 Oversized masks may obstruct your child's view. Use face paint instead.
- 🍎 Make your child's costume visible to drivers. Attach glow sticks, reflector tape, or lights to the costume to help drivers see children crossing the street.
- 🍎 Don't let your child use dangerous props. Swords, knives, and other sharp objects should be plastic, not metal.
- 🍎 Children should not go trick-or-treating alone. Parents should accompany younger children and have children 13 and older stay in groups.
- 🍎 Be sure to cross streets only at intersections and look both ways before crossing the street.
- 🍎 Have parents check treats before kids eat them!

### Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner: Trespassing

What options do property owners and managers have when someone who is not a resident is causing problems on your property? The simplest answer is to trespass that individual.

Official trespass forms are available from the Police Department. Some things to remember when trespassing an individual:

1. You cannot trespass a current resident.
2. There must be a *specific basis* for the trespass (ex: fighting, vandalism, drugs) that occurred within the past *30 days*.
3. To be official, trespassing forms must be served *in person*.
4. You may trespass for a period up to *1 year*.
5. You can serve a trespass form yourself:
  - a. Have the person sign the form and give them a copy. (Go to step 6.)
  - b. If they refuse to sign, give them a copy. You must then take the trespass form to a notary public and sign it.
6. Be sure to keep a copy of the trespass form 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 911 for police assistance.

If you have questions about trespassing, please call 763-509-5147 or 911 to speak to an officer.

### Especially for Business: Worthless Checks

Bad checks are common, but you don't have to write off worthless checks as a cost of doing business. There is a way to recover your money through the Worthless Check Diversion Program. The main goals of the program are:

- Restitution for victims
- Holding those issuing bad checks accountable
- Educating merchants about how to reduce the number of worthless checks they receive

The program is **free** to Plymouth merchants. No contract is required to participate and no check is too small to send through. For more information about the Worthless Check Diversion Program, contact the Financial Crime Services at 1-800-880-5420.

**Texting while driving can impair  
your driving even more than alcohol!  
Put down the phone and keep your  
mind on the road.  
Drive safely.**



**Did you know?** Home Owners who have monitored alarm systems are required to obtain a permit through the Police Department. Permits are free for new alarm systems. The Police Department will respond to **two false alarms at the same residence each calendar year without penalty to the owner**. On the third and subsequent false alarms within the year, the Police will assess a response fee of **\$50.00** per alarm to the owner of the premise.

### Fraud Stop: Uniform Traffic Ticket Scam

How the scam works: You get an email from the State Police. The email says you got a ticket and directs you to open an attached file, supposedly a copy of the ticket, fill out the form and mail it in. What you don't realize is the attachment contains a virus which can infect your computer. What's more, if you do send money, it certainly isn't going to pay a ticket-it is going into the pockets of a crook.

*The Stop:* 1. Tickets are not emailed. If in doubt, contact the court through official channels. 2. Never click on attachments from unknown sources. 3. Make sure your computer has updated virus and firewall protection.

### Featured Safety Program: Free FBI Child ID app for iPhone

You're shopping at the mall with your children when one of them disappears. A quick search of the nearby area is unsuccessful. **Now there's a free app that can help: FBI Child ID**. The app provides a convenient place to electronically store photos and vital information about your children so that it's literally right at hand if you need it. You can show your child's photo and information to security or police on the spot. The app also allows information to be emailed to authorities with a few clicks. Tips on keeping children safe, as well as guidance on what to do in the first crucial hours after a child goes missing, are also included on the app. Currently, the app is only available for iPhones and can only be downloaded from iTunes. The FBI plans to expand this tool to other types of mobile devices and will be adding new features in the near future.

[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)



\*\*\*\*\*

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!