



# Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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## Surviving an Active Shooter Incident

Over the past two decades there have been numerous active shooter attacks that have resulted in multiple fatalities, including Columbine, the Omaha Mall, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, a Colorado movie theater, and the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin. It is unfortunate that we have to think about this kind of situation happening in our own community. However, active shooter incidents can happen anywhere: malls, restaurants, hotels, schools, at work, places of worship-any place there are large numbers of potential victims. Ignoring the possibility of an active shooter will not make the threat any less real. We don't want to believe that a tragedy will happen to us, but we can't afford to think, "It can't happen here." Instead, we have to think, "What if?" Survival in an active-shooter situation depends on education, planning, and preparedness.

### Surviving an active-shooter incident:

1. Be prepared and think "What if." Be aware of your environment and note any possible dangers. Locate the two nearest exits wherever you go.
2. If you are in an active-shooter incident, quickly determine the best way to protect your life.
  - a. If possible, **Run**. If there is an escape path, leave the area as fast as you can. Leave your belongings behind. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. When you call 911, give as much information as possible, including where the suspect is, what the weapons are, what the suspect looks like, and how many victims there may be.
  - b. *If you cannot run*, **Hide**. Lock yourself in a room that will keep you out of sight of the shooter and provide some protection if shots are fired in your direction. Block the door, if you can. Remain quiet and silence cell phones. Call 911 only when it is safe to do so.
  - c. *If you have no other course of action, and your life is in imminent danger*, **Fight**. Use anything that can possibly incapacitate the shooter, and don't hesitate.
3. When law enforcement gets on scene, their first priority is to stop the shooter. Follow directions and keep your hands in plain view.

The City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security produced a very well-done informational video regarding what to do in an active-shooter situation. They have graciously allowed the Plymouth Police Department to use this video on our website ([www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov)) and our cable television show, *Along for the Ride*, to help our residents prepare for, and survive, an active-shooter attack.

### **If you Know Something, Say Something!**

Active shooters don't typically advertise their plans, but many times there have been suspicious comments or behaviors that indicated an attack was being planned. If you know of someone who may be planning an active-shooter attack, or any other violent crime, report it right away. Your call may prevent a tragedy from

### **What is an active shooter?**

An active shooter is an armed person who is actively trying to kill other people in a confined, populated area. Active shooters generally use guns, pick random victims, and have one goal--to cause as much bloodshed as possible.

There are some violent scenes, but please take a few minutes to watch "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" Although "Run. Hide. Fight." is set in a workplace environment, the ideas can be used in many other situations. Talk with your family about what to do if there is an active-shooter incident. Make a plan for different "What if" scenarios. Your life may depend on it. We hope our community will never experience an active-shooter incident, but being mentally prepared with a plan can help increase the chances of survival.

**Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner:  
Finding Public Court Records**

The Minnesota Judicial Branch does have public trial court records available through a remote access website: [pa.courts.state.mn.us](http://pa.courts.state.mn.us). All you need to search for information is a first and last name. Please be advised that information on everyone with this name will be shown, so it is important to confirm the records are for the correct individual. The records are unofficial, but the information found on the site does give a reference of an individual's past court history for further follow-up. Remember, this site does *not* and *should not* take the place of an official and thorough background check. Background checks should be conducted through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system, which you can access online at <https://cch.state.mn.us>, at their office located at 1430 Maryland Avenue East in St. Paul, or by calling 651-793-2400 for information.

**During 2012, pedestrian fatalities have increased in Minnesota. Be alert and stop for people crossing at an intersection or marked crosswalk.**

**Especially for Business:  
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. Chris Kuklok at 763-509-5145.

**Fraud Stop: Scambusters ([www.scambusters.org](http://www.scambusters.org)) and Snopes ([www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com))**

Scams, identity theft, fraud, misinformation, spam, rumors, urban legends...Criminals have always used devious ways to try to get rich quick. They don't care about their victims and the criminals can be very, very convincing. What's worse, criminals continue to come up with many new ways to part unsuspecting victims with their money, or even their identities. It is hard to keep up with all the latest (and remember all the "old") scams and fraud. Two sites that have very useful information about preventing victims from falling for these scams and fraud are Scambusters and Snopes. If you ever get an email or phone call asking you for personal or financial information, telling you that you have won something (but you never entered), offering you a percentage of millions of dollars, asking you to wire money for any reason (but usually an emergency), sending you an overpayment, or anything else, it is always a good idea to stop, think, and do some more research before providing information or agreeing to send money. Scambusters and Snopes are just a click away and can help you from becoming a victim!

**Featured Program: *Along for the Ride***

Tune into Plymouth Channel 16 Thursdays at noon, Fridays at 6 p.m. or Sundays at 6 p.m., to see the Police Department's ½ hour informational television show, *Along for the Ride*. The show can also be seen on Community Cable Channel 20, Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. Join us as we cover safety and crime prevention topics, officer highlights, traffic tips, viewer questions, and more!

Don't have cable? No problem! Current and past *Along for the Ride* shows can be viewed via the City of Plymouth website [www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov).

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Emergency: **911**                      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!