



Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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Keeping Kids Out of Trouble

Spring is here and everyone is getting outside more, especially children and teens. Every year, the police department responds to calls about juveniles doing things that can lead to big trouble. To kids, these may seem like harmless pranks done in fun and they don't realize the consequences of what they are doing. However, many of these activities can lead to civil or criminal liability, or personal injury. Please talk to your children. Let them know that the following activities are not acceptable and, if reported to the police, may result in criminal charges. Below are easy ways to explain to your kids about making good choices.

- ✗ **Vandalism and graffiti.** Damaging someone else's property in any way, like smashing a mailbox or spray painting pictures on playground equipment, is a crime. Even if you are doing something like throwing rocks at cars, people, or houses and accidentally hurt someone or damage their property, it is still a crime. You wouldn't want someone to break your stuff, so don't ruin anything that doesn't belong to you!
- ✗ **Theft.** It is illegal to take or keep something that doesn't belong to you. If you find something and don't turn it in to police, this is considered stealing, too. You wouldn't want someone to take your property, so don't take anything that doesn't belong to you!
- ✗ **Assault and Bullying.** You may not always get along with others, but never hit or push. Don't tease or be mean to other people. Words can hurt someone as much as a punch. Talk to an adult if you are having problems with someone.
- ✗ **Trespassing.** Going on someone else's property when told not to or against posted signage is illegal. Using a pool on private property, like an apartment building, where you don't live is also trespassing unless you are invited by a current resident and they are with you.
- ✗ **Smoking and Drinking.** If you are under 18, it is illegal for you to *smoke*. If you are under 21, it is illegal for you to drink or even possess *alcohol*.
- ✗ **Speeding.** The speed limit in residential areas is 30 mph, unless otherwise posted. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for kids and teens. Speeding, not paying attention, and driver inexperience are the main causes of teen crashes. Slow down and protect yourself, your friends, and others.
- ✗ **Curfew.** There is a Curfew Ordinance in effect for children under the age of 18! Juveniles must be home during the following hours: Under 12-Weekdays home by 9:00 PM and weekends home by 10:00 PM; Ages 12 to 14 -Weekdays home by 10:00 PM and weekends home by 11:00 PM; Ages 15 to 17- weekdays home by 11:00 PM and weekends home by midnight. There are some exceptions to the curfew ordinance, such as older children going to and from work, school, or church functions or running errands at the direction of a parent. The curfew is lifted at 5:00 AM, seven days a week.

Did you know? Even if you are under the age of 18, if you commit a crime, you could *go to court, pay a fine, and do community service*. You will also be responsible for paying for any damage you cause.

Are you having problems with your teen?

If you are having issues with your teenager (getting into fights, hanging out with the wrong crowd, "drifting away", getting involved in minor crime, like shoplifting), the Northern Star Diversion and Referral program is an option. It is a 5-week course to help kids get back on the right track. For more information, call 763-231-7242 or go to www.juvenilediversion.org.

Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner: Trespassing

What option does a property owner or manager have when a non-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 people:

1. You cannot trespass a current resident. Remember, *even if a person is not on the lease, if they are living there, they are a resident and must be evicted, not trespassed.*
2. There must be a *specific basis* for the trespass (like fighting, etc.) that occurred within the past *30 days*.
3. Trespassing forms must be served *in person*, not via mail.
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: Robbery Prevention

Armed robbery is one of the most dangerous crimes faced by businesses. All businesses should take steps to reduce the chance of being the victim of a robbery, including training employees in robbery prevention and response.

Prevention

1. Have opening and closing procedures.
 - ✓ Have 2 employees open and close.
 - ✓ Check the exterior before opening. Don't go in if you suspect a problem.
 - ✓ Lock doors at close. Never let anyone in after hours.
2. Use good customer service. Greet everyone!
3. Be alert for suspicious activity. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you see something suspicious.
4. Keep cash at a minimum. Make regular bank drops and use safes. Post signage.

During: Stay calm and cooperate.

After: Lock the door to prevent the robber coming back and call 9-1-1 immediately.

If you would like to schedule robbery prevention training for your business, contact 763-509-5147.

TRAFFIC TIP
Slow Down! Obey the speed limit!
Don't forget: in hazardous conditions, even the speed limit may be too fast.

Fraud Stop: Cybersecurity

It is no secret that criminals are increasingly using the internet to commit crimes. These crimes range from identity theft and fraud to espionage and terrorism. *Stop.Think.Connect.* is a campaign by the Department of Homeland Security to get everyone involved in stopping these criminal and spread the word about internet safety and security. Whenever you go online, do these three simple steps:

Stop: Before you use the Internet, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.

Think: Take a moment to be certain the path ahead is clear. Watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact your safety, or your family's.

Connect: Enjoy the Internet with greater confidence, knowing you've taken the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.

For more information about cybersecurity, go to www.dhs.gov.

Featured Program: Self Defense for Females

The Plymouth Police Department offers a self-defense class for females of all ages each summer. The Self Defense for Females class addresses many traditional safety concerns through an open discussion and participants learn easy defensive tactics techniques taught by Plymouth Police Officers. This 3-hour hands-on, practical class is a must for any female! Bring your mom, daughter, best friend, or sister! Check for class listings through the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department 763-509-5200.

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. Thank you!