



# Community Crime Prevention Newsletter

Plymouth, MN

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## Human Trafficking (Source: Dept. of Homeland Security, [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign))

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked around the world. Human trafficking exists even in the United States. It occurs in all states- in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Victims of human trafficking can be any age, race, gender, or nationality: they can be young, old, poor, well-off, male, female, American or foreign-born. Although many think of human trafficking relating only to the sex trade, victims can also be found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service. In addition, trafficking is not the same as smuggling. "Trafficking" is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders. "Smuggling" involves moving a person across a country's border in violation of immigration laws. Although human smuggling is very different from trafficking, smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation.

Human trafficking is a **\$32 billion** per year industry, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime, as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, natural disasters, or political instability. Traffickers often coerce victims into labor by using violence or threatening the victim or their family members; depriving the victim of basic necessities; making false promises of a good job and home; restricting contact with friends or family; limiting freedom of movement; controlling identification documents; threatening deportation; garnishing the victim's salary to pay off alleged debts; and/or preventing the victim from attending religious services.



### Indicators of Human Trafficking

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Below are possible indicators of human trafficking

- Is the person disconnected from family, friends, or community organizations?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive? Or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone who seems to be in control of them?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear to be living in unsuitable conditions?
- Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

If you suspect someone is the victim of human trafficking, contact law enforcement right away. Your safety, as well as the safety of the victim, is paramount. **Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions.** It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking. For more information, go to [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign).

**Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Corner:  
Crisis Services for Adults (COPE)**

Rental owners and managers deal with tenants from all walks of life. Managers may be one of the first to see indications of a resident in crisis, including a mental emergency. In medical emergencies, call 911 right away. However, if you are concerned about a tenant who may have a severe disturbance of mood or thinking which threatens a person's safety, there is a public resource: Hennepin County's Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies (COPE).

COPE professionals are available to:

- Go where a person is,
- Handle the immediate crisis, and
- Provide a clinical assessment.

Telephone consultations are also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 612-596-1223. If needed, COPE will arrange an emergency evaluation for inpatient psychiatric services. This service is available to all adults living in Hennepin County.

**Especially for Business:  
Preventing Vandalism**

Vandalism is the deliberate destruction or defacement of property, including graffiti, broken lights or windows, and damaged vehicles and signs.

Vandalism costs businesses millions of dollars each year to repair damages; costs that are passed on to customers through higher prices.

Vandalism can be reduced by taking simple steps:

- ✓ Use good lighting to make criminals visible.
- ✓ Lock doors, gates, equipment, and garages to prevent access.
- ✓ Consider security cameras or alarms.
- ✓ Use break-resistant light fixtures and install security glass in doors and windows.
- ✓ Plant landscaping in front of "blank" walls.
- ✓ Post signage.
- ✓ Remove graffiti or repair damage right away (after photographing and reporting it.)

Remind employees, if they see someone committing an act of vandalism, call 911 right away.

**Traffic Tip: Stay alert for motorcycles.  
Motorcyclist fatalities increased in 2012.  
Help keep motorcycle riders safer this summer:  
Check your blind spots and pay extra attention at intersections**

**Fraud Stop: Cyber Criminals Using Photo-Sharing Programs to Compromise Computers**

The FBI has seen an increase in criminals using online photo-sharing programs to perpetrate scams. These criminals advertise vehicles online but the ads don't include photos. Photos are sent on request. The photo may be a file sent as an e-mail attachment or it may be a link to an online photo gallery. The photos contain malicious software that infects the victim's computer, directing the user to fake websites that look nearly identical to the real sites where the original advertisement was seen. After the victim purchases the item, the criminals stop responding and victims never receive any merchandise. Here are a few tips for staying safe:

- Be cautious if you lose an auction but the seller contacts you later saying the original bidder fell through.
- Make sure websites are secure and authenticated before you purchase an item online
- Research to determine if a car dealership is real and how long it has been in business.
- Scan files before downloading them to your computer.
- Keep your computer software, including the operating system, updated with the latest patches.
- Ensure your anti-virus software and firewalls are current—they can help prevent malware infections.

If you have fallen victim to this type of scam, file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov). (Source: [www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/e-scams](http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/e-scams))

**Featured Program: Night to Unite!**

Night to Unite is a chance for neighbors to come together, get to know each other, and give crime a going away party! This year, Night to Unite will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. To register your Night to Unite party go to [www.plymouthmn.gov/ntu](http://www.plymouthmn.gov/ntu). In addition, everyone is invited to our Night to Unite! Kick Off event on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:00 PM at the Plymouth Creek Center (14800 34<sup>th</sup> Ave). We hope to see you there!



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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!