

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, May 29, 2015

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS: MPD TARGETS AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS THROUGH "SMOOTH OPERATOR" PROGRAM

Speed is a primary factor in aggressive driving behavior – and also a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. The probability of death and debilitating injury grows with impacts at higher speeds – doubling for every 10 mph over

50 mph that a vehicle travels. The Federal Highway Administration found that, on average, 70 percent of motorists exceed the posted speed limits.

Aggressive driving is one of the most dangerous problems on our roads today – a factor in an estimated one-third of all crashes, injuries, and fatalities nationally. In 2013, close to 10,000 people were killed in crashes involving speed, according to NHTSA. Speeding:

- Reduces your ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway.
- Extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle.
- Increases the distance you travel while you react to a dangerous situation.
- Increases the probability of serious injury or death when involved in a crash.
- In 2010, 10,395 people were killed nationally in speed-related crashes.
- Speed limits are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

The District of Columbia was one of the first jurisdictions in the area to join the Smooth Operator Program, a regional anti-aggressive driving initiative that today involves more than 50 law enforcement agencies in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Each year, dozens of law enforcement agencies from the District, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania cooperate in intensive, one- to two-week aggressive driving enforcement "waves" - one each month from June through September. The first wave of the Smooth Operator program begins on June 2, 2015. These special enforcement waves are in addition to their everyday traffic safety efforts and will focus primarily on:

- **Speeding:** going faster than the posted speed limit or too fast for weather conditions.
- **Running red lights** and running stop signs.
- **Tailgating** or following other vehicles too closely.
- **Making frequent lane changes**, unsafe lane changes or weaving in and out of traffic to get ahead.
- **Failing to yield the right of way;** not allowing other drivers to merge or cutting other drivers off.
- **Passing improperly:** passing on the right, passing on the shoulder of the road, or failing to use turn signals when changing lanes.



» Get more information about MPD's participation in Smooth Operator enforcement at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/node/208412>

» Learn more about the risks and consequences of speeding and aggressive driving – and watch a powerful video featuring the people in DC who investigate and treat the victims – at: <http://www.towardzerodeathsd.com/speeding-and-aggressive-driving>

» The Smooth Operator program is a public safety initiative providing solutions for the problem of aggressive drivers. Learn more about Smooth Operator at: <http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com/>

MPD TO JOIN DPW AND OTHER DC AGENCIES AT TRUCK TOUCH ON JUNE 6

The DC Department of Public Works will host a free, citywide “Truck Touch” Saturday, June 6, 2015, from 8 am to 1 pm at RFK Stadium, Lot 7. A host of DC government agencies will present and demonstrate nearly 30 vehicles used to clean and repair streets, change traffic lights, collect refuse, clear snow, provide emergency services, administer mobile health care, and more.

This is the city’s eighth Truck Touch, which is coordinated annually by the DC Department of Public Works. Its popularity throughout the Washington metropolitan area over the years has led visitor attendance to grow from several hundred to several thousand. Last year, more than 3,000 residents came out to climb on packer, sweeper and boom trucks; sit atop MPD’s Mounted Unit’s police horse and maneuver the levers of a police chopper; ride Segways, and test drive electric sedan vehicles. Residents also learned how potholes are repaired, sewers are vacuumed, and received information about vital city services.

DC’s Citywide Truck Touch features vehicles from the District departments of Public Works, Transportation, Health, Employment Services, Parks and Recreation, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the DC Water and Sewer Authority. Other agencies will also be available to provide direct services and disseminate information about other DC government agencies.

- » Get more information about the Truck Touch at: <http://dpw.dc.gov/page/truck-touch-2015>
- » Want to see a bucket truck dance? Check out the “Truck Touch Ballet” from the 2014 Truck Touch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxk3eseAjMg>



NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We’re Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD’s email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade

DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. The CyberTipline is a Congressionally-mandated means for reporting crimes against children. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **1-800-843-5678** or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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