

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, December 18, 2015

HOLIDAY REMINDER: DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE IN DC

Metropolitan Police officers are out in force this holiday season, looking for impaired drivers, speeders and other aggressive or unsafe drivers. Several sobriety checkpoints will be conducted between now and New Year's Day, as part of the MPD's holiday traffic safety detail. The MPD is also throwing its support behind both the designated driver and SoberRide programs this holiday season. Sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), SoberRide provides holiday revelers with free cab rides home (up to \$50) every evening from 10 pm to 6 am, now through January 1. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), please call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). AT&T customers may dial #WRAP from their wireless phones. Please refer to the SoberRide information listed below for important details concerning this program. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service

The MPD reminds motorists that DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard of .08, zero tolerance for youthful offenders, and penalties that include stiff fines, license revocation and the possibility of jail time, even for first offenders.

ENJOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY ON THE ROADS AND IN THE SHOPS

The holiday season is upon us! Houses and trees have been decorated with garland and lights, Christmas songs abound, and the shoppers are out in force. Special seasonal markets have cropped up in various parts of the city, and specialty boutiques and shopping centers are doing strong business. It may be tempting to rush from one store to another to catch the best sales and to get your shopping completed as quickly as possible, but it's important to take the time to remember your safety – and the safety of others – while you shop.

When walking along the busy streets of DC, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- Look both ways before crossing the street
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Keep alert! You may seem like an easy target to muggers and other crooks if you're loaded down with packages.

Drivers are also reminded to exercise caution and keep their cool while travelling from shop to shop in search of the perfect gift. Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and

» Learn more about drunk driving laws in DC by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

» More details on SoberRide are available at:
<http://www.wrap.org/soberride/>

» The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/sharetheroad>

» This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's an opportune time for crime. Learn more at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/holidaysafety>

» Aggressive driving will cost you. For more information on aggressive driving as well as the 10 basic rules of courtesy and safety, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

speeding. Don't let your anger get the best of you if you're driving. During the holidays, be sure to allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver's license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

WATCH YOUR MONEY AT THE ATM: USE SAFETY TIPS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SKIMMING FRAUD DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The potential risk of fraud often increases during the holiday season upon. One common scam is to use a skimming device on an ATM. Targeted machines are often located in convenience stores. Skimming fraud has been reported across the nation, including ATMs in the District of Columbia and Baltimore metropolitan areas.

What is ATM Skimming?

ATM Skimming involves the attachment of electronic devices on or around the ATM for the purposes of capturing both the magnetic strip data contained on the back of a debit card as well as the PIN number that is entered by the customer when using the ATM. The devices used to capture the information will vary in shapes, sizes and designs but are made to be unobtrusive or mimic legitimate devices.

ATM Safe Use Tips

- Regularly monitor your account activity using online banking.
- Avoid suspicious or unfamiliar ATMs.
- When approaching an ATM, check for obvious signs of tampering in the areas of the card slot or PIN pad.
- If you see anything suspicious or unusual, note the location and report it to the financial institution and law enforcement.

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>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

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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