

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, August 26, 2011*

## DISTRICT URGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR EFFECTS OF HURRICANE IRENE THIS WEEKEND

In a week of unprecedented weather in the Washington region — with an earthquake measuring 5.8 having shaken the entire East Coast on Tuesday — the National Weather Service is now predicting a significant potential for winds and rain associated with Hurricane Irene this weekend. A Tropical Storm Warning and Flash Flood Watch is in effect for the District and much of the mid-Atlantic region through Sunday. Public safety, transportation, and utilities are working to ensure that the city is prepared for the possible impact of the storm. Residents and business owners are urged to prepare their homes and businesses in advance of the storm's arrival mid- to late-afternoon on Saturday.

A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relative calm center known as the "eye." The "eye" is generally 20 to 30 miles wide, and the storm may extend outward 400 miles. As a hurricane approaches, the skies will begin to darken and winds will grow in strength. As a hurricane nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds, and storm surges. A single hurricane can last for more than 2 weeks over open waters and can run a path across the entire length of the eastern seaboard. August and September are peak months during the hurricane season that lasts from June 1 through November 30. Hurricanes can be dangerous killers. Learning the hurricane warning messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage.

Before the storm hits, have disaster supplies on hand, including:

- » Flashlight and extra batteries
- » Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- » First aid kit and manual
- » Emergency food and water supply
- » Non-electric can opener
- » Essential medicines and prescriptions
- » Cash and credit cards

During a hurricane warning:

- » Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
- » Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- » Avoid elevators.

If at home:

- » Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- » Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- » If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.

- » Develop an emergency communication plan for you and your family in the event that you become separated. Learn more at: <http://72hours.dc.gov>
- » Review the DC Department of Transportation's "Emergency Tips Brochure" for evacuation procedures at: <http://ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/On+Your+Street/Traffic+Management/Emergency+Preparedness/Transportation+Tips+During+An+Emergency+Incident>
- » For up to date information on the storm's position and current predictions, go to: <http://www.nws.gov>
- » Keep informed on the District's response to the storm, alerts, and updates by following on Twitter: [@DC\\_HSEMA](#) or [@MayorVinceGray](#)

## MPD EXPANDS SOCIAL NETWORKING EFFORTS WITH TWITTER UPDATES

The Metropolitan Police Department joined other District agencies this week in launching its Twitter feed for residents, businesses, visitors and others interested in keeping informed about the latest information and alerts from public safety officials in the District of Columbia. By choosing to “follow” the tweets from MPD’s account — which is “DCPoliceDept” — subscribers have access to the latest alerts and information about road closures and police activity that may affect their commute, updates and descriptions of suspects wanted for violent offenses, releases about closed cases, and more.

Chief Cathy L. Lanier launched the service “to get pertinent information out to the public quickly.” In addition to the MPD’s presence on Facebook, launched in 2009, Twitter offers the Department another means of communicating and providing timely information as necessary. Command staff have been trained in the use of the tool and have already begun using it to provide quick reports on vehicle accidents, links to boating safety information and laws, a reminder about National Night Out, and more. Join the other nearly-200 followers today!



» To stay up to date on current activities and alerts from the Metropolitan Police Department, follow us on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/DCPoliceDept>

» If you would like to join the conversation on Facebook, become a fan at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-Metropolitan-Police-Dept/41218705255>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

##### Drug Free Zones in Fourth District.

The Fourth District will be holding Drug Free Zones in PSA 403 and PSA 405 on several dates in August and September. While the area is designated as a Drug Free Zone, any group of two or more persons congregating on public space for the purpose of participating in the use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs within the boundaries of the zone, and who fails to disperse after being instructed to do so by a uniformed officer of the MPDC, will be subject to arrest. To learn more about the DFZ program, see [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav\\_GID,1541.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp). For a list of current and

upcoming Drug Free Zones, visit [www.mpdc.dc.gov/dfz](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/dfz).

**FBI Launches Child ID App.** A new free tool from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is designed to help parents keep a convenient electronic copy of their child’s vital information handy on their smart phone. The new app — “Child ID” — is currently available for iPhone with versions in the works for other mobile platforms soon. A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Help protect your child with this convenient, free tool.

**MPD Celebrates 150 Years.** The Metropolitan Police Department turned

150 on August 6. Look for a special decal on most marked vehicles to highlight and celebrate this landmark in the agency’s history. In addition, many of our uniformed officers have chosen to honor the sesquicentennial by wearing a commemorative badge through September 30, 2011.

In honor of the milestone, additional information about the Department’s history is being added to our website, including the biographies of every Chief of Police since 1861, a history of the badge, and more each week. To see the special section, visit [www.mpdc.dc.gov/150th](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/150th).



### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 8/26/11
2011: 71	
2010: 76	
% Change: -6.6%	
Closure Rate: 91.5% (65 closures)	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 8/22/11
August: 119	
2011 Total: 1,199	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 8/26/11
2011: 27	
2010: 18	
% Change: 50.0%	

#### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at [kevin.palmer@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.palmer@dc.gov)

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