

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, January 20, 2012

DPW OFFERS TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY, HOME, CAR FOR SNOW

It's mid-January and we've been enjoying the mild weather, but the likelihood of escaping this winter without a snow storm is dwindling rapidly. Don't get caught without a plan and the supplies necessary to weather a snow storm. Do you have a shovel, salt or other abrasives for your sidewalk? Do you have a scraper to remove snow from your car and a shovel to dig out your car if you get stuck? The Department of Public Works (DPW) Snow Team has created a website to help you prepare for inclement weather. Here are some highlights:

- » Check with your child's school for closures.
- » Plan your transportation ahead of time.
- » Check weather forecasts weekly.
- » Form a neighborhood shoveling team begins snowing.
- » Learn more about snow operations based on the severity of the storms.
- » Make sure your car is winter-ready.

» Plan today just in case we have to plow tomorrow. For winter safety tips for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists as well as tips for safe cooking and heating your home, go to:

www.snow.dc.gov

MOTORISTS REMINDED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS WHEN DRIVING ON SNOWY OR ICY STREETS

With the weatherman calling for a chance of snow, sleet and ice tonight, the MPD wants you to be prepared. Be it rain or snow, if the temperatures drop below freezing, the streets can quickly get slick, forming a thin sheet of ice on the pavement.

Whenever the weather becomes unpleasant, motorists are advised drive with caution. If it's snowing or icy, stay far back from plows and spreaders so the drivers can see you. Remember that when it rains, sleets or snows, travelling in your vehicle will take longer than usual. Please be patient. Do not race to pass other vehicles, especially working plows or spreaders. Getting to your final destination safely is the number one priority, so maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and other cars, giving yourself the extra time and space necessary to stop during inclement weather. In addition, commuters and residents are reminded to:

- » Listen to media reports for weather updates.
- » Remember that driving on ice is significantly different than driving on snow. No cars handle well on ice. Even the tires on a four-wheel-drive SUV will skid on ice.
- » Drivers should use extreme caution and maintain safe speeds and distances from other vehicles during inclement weather.
- » Pay attention to the road conditions, particularly black ice which can be deceptive in its appearance giving the driver a false sense of security on the road.
- » Take note of Variable Message Signs placed along local highways and corridors with messages like "Bridge Freezes before Roadway" and/or "Caution — Icy Conditions."
- » Black ice is transparent ice located on the roadway making it very difficult to detect and becoming a major hazard to motorists. Warnings like the ones listed above are used to alert motorists where black ice is likely to occur.
- » Remain alert and be aware of surrounding conditions including other vehicles and pedestrians.

» The District of Columbia announces information on how the streets will be treated during a snowstorm online. If you hear a weather report and want to see if the city plans to salt the streets or plow, go to:

<http://dc.gov>

JANUARY IS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Stalking is a crime that affects 3.4 million victims a year. MPD honors all survivors of stalking, as well as victims of stalking who are no longer with us. National Stalking Awareness Month was launched to increase the public's understanding of the crime.

Stalking occurs when a person repeatedly behaves or acts in a way that takes over your life and causes mental distress or fear for your life. Stalking is a series of actions that puts a person in fear for their safety. The stalker may follow you, harass you, call you on the phone, watches your home, send you emails you don't want, or other things that frighten you.

Stalking is a serious crime, like sexual assault and domestic violence; it's about power, control, domination and doing harm. It affects friends, family members, and co-workers of the victim. Stalking is any behavior that would make a reasonable person feel threatened, intimidated, annoyed, or afraid.

Women stalk, but most stalkers are men — nearly 90 percent. A stalker is much more likely to be someone you know than someone you don't know. Someone who is a stalker may start with small, annoying, persistent actions and may move to criminal behavior. Stalking behavior is not about love, lust, or desire. It is recognized as severe crime against victims. A person is stalking you if he or she:

- » Persists in having a relationship that you don't want.
- » Makes threats that compromise your safety and the safety of someone close to you.
- » Follows you, calling repeatedly when you have made it clear you don't want calls

If you believe you are being stalked, it's imperative that you find an ally. Do not take matters into your own hands. The first thing to do is tell your family, roommates, trusted friends, and co-workers. Ask them to watch out for your safety. Do not keep it to yourself. There's nothing to be ashamed of. Remember: You are not to blame for the stalker's behavior. Contact the police and report the crime. Formulate a safety plan, and keep a log of all communications, threats, email, mail or other contacts.

» If you are being stalked, you are not alone. For more information about, resources on, and counseling for stalking, visit:
<http://www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org>

» The Victim Specialists Unit provides support, information, and referrals to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. To learn more about the VSU or to contact a specialist, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/vsu>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

One City Summit Set for 2/11. DC residents are invited to join Mayor Vincent Gray and 1,000 other community members at the Washington Convention Center on February 11, for a frank discussion about what needs to be done to create Washington DC as One City. For more information visit <http://onecitysummit.dc.gov>.

DMV Offers Ticket Amnesty Through 1/27. All open parking, moving violation and photo-enforcement tickets issued prior to January 1, 2010 qualify for amnesty. During the amnesty period, all late penalties on eligible tickets are waived. To pay, call (866)-893-5023 or visit the online

ticket payment page at: https://wmq.etimspayments.com/pbw/include/dc_parking/info.jsp

DC Public Library Offering Fine Forgiveness through 2/5. Do you have an overdue library book, CD or DVD? Check it in before February 5 and DC Public Library (DCPL) will forgive your fines. That's right! No fines, no fees, and no questions asked. The DCPL will forgive lost books as well. Regardless of how long you've had it and the condition it's in, check it in and discover the joy of using DC Public Library again. For more information visit <http://www.dclibrary.org/node/29020>.

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members.

Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolice.jobs>.

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>.

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>.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 1/20/12
2012: 7	
2011: 6	
% Change: +16.7%	
Closure Rate: 14.3% (1 closure)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 1/16/12
January: 91	
2012 Total: 91	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 1/20/12
2012: 1	
2011: 3	
% Change: -66.6%	

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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