

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 19, 2013

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH GEARED TOWARD RAISING AWARENESS OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Child abuse and neglect awareness activities are being promoted across the country during the month of April. Detectives in the Youth Investigations Division (YID) have received intensive training in recognizing and investigating child abuse. They work in conjunction with the United States Attorney Office, the Attorney General Office for the District of Columbia, the Children's National Medical Center, the Child & Family Services Agency, and the Child Advocacy Center to determine the best recourse for suspected cases of child abuse.

Not all injuries to a child are considered "child abuse," which occurs when a parent, guardian, or custodian intentionally injures a child. Physical discipline on a child – provided that discipline is reasonable in manner and moderate in degree – is permissible.

Child neglect occurs when a child has been abandoned or abused by his/her parent, guardian, or custodian. A child is entitled to a certain level of parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his/her physical, mental, or emotional health. A child regularly exposed to illegal drug-related activity in the home or who is born addicted or dependent on a controlled substance is also a victim of neglect.

All sworn members of the MPD are required to report child abuse and neglect. In addition to medical and school personnel, law enforcement officers are required to notify the YID or the Child CFSA if the member has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him/her in his/her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to get involved by promoting healthy families. Learn about protective factors that can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, find information on parenting resources and different ways to support families, and learn how service providers can partner with parents to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

» If you have concerns about a youth who may be abused or neglected, contact the Youth Investigations Division on:
[\(202\) 576-6768](tel:(202)576-6768)

» Get more information on National Child Abuse Prevention Month at:
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/history.cfm>

» The websites listed below have excellent information that can be downloaded and printed for dissemination to anyone in need of help.
o <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>
o <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

USE iWATCH TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

You can help prevent terrorism in our back yard by paying attention and speaking up.

The Washington region is a special place, one that we are privileged to call home. Now, citizens can help protect our home from those who would do harm by calling attention to potential threats to our community.

Now, when you see something that just doesn't look right, you can quickly and easily make an electronic record of what you observed and report it to local police for investigation and possible action. The information you provide could be the difference in preventing an attack on one of our nation's most cherished institutions or critical functions. Making a report is free, easy, and an important element of our shared responsibility to protect our nation from harm.

The iWATCH suspicious activity reporting tool enables users to provide detailed



- » Report Suspicious Activity
- Immediate threats or emergencies:
call 911
 - Suspicious activity or behavior:
call (202) 727-9099
 - Make a report using iWATCH at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/iwatch>

information about suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate possible criminal or terrorist activity

Every report is reviewed by analysts. Providing your contact information is required to ensure that MPD personnel can contact you to follow up with additional questions. If you prefer to make an anonymous report, contact the police at (202) 727-9099.

PROVIDE 911 WITH A SAFETY PROFILE THROUGH SMART911

Smart911, a initiative by the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) improves public safety by providing immediate crucial information to emergency responders. Smart911 provides emergency responders with much more complete information

about 911 callers so they can respond to the right location, with the right personnel and the right equipment. Smart911 is a public/private partnership enabling the creation of a critical caller database that integrates with the District's 911 system.

Coupled with the DC 311 smart-phone app, the availability of Smart911 adds to OUC Director Jennifer Greene's goal of making OUC the nation's most efficient and responsive emergency communications agency. With Smart911, residents are able to create a Safety Profile at www.smart911.com that is automatically displayed to 9-1-1 during emergency calls. The profile can include home and work addresses associated with mobile phone numbers, specific medical conditions and disabilities, all family members, vehicle information and even information about pets.

Residents are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 911. Smart911 data is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and is only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call.



- » Create your safety profile with Smart911 online at:
<https://www.smart911.com/>
- » Smart911 is supported by the DC Office of Unified Communications (OUC), which oversees the 9-1-1 call center in the District of Columbia. Learn more about OUC at:
<http://ouc.dc.gov/>
- » Watch the a YouTube video about the benefits of creating a safety profile through Smart911:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDZFTx-rz9Y&feature=youtu.be>
- » Need to report a non-emergency issue in your neighborhood? Try the DC311 Smartphone app. Get more information at:
<http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app>

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>.

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.

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

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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