

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

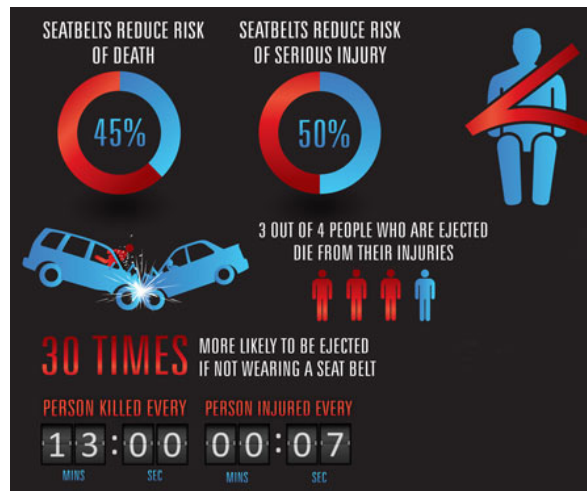
A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, June 14, 2013

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS: DC DRIVING 101

The District of Columbia is committed to protecting the lives of those traveling on city roads. Toward Zero Deaths represents the city's goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. Traffic deaths are preventable and over the next few weeks, "What's New" will be sharing information on what you can do to protect yourself in a variety of areas, including seat belt safety, impaired driving, speeding & aggressive driving, distracted driving, and pedestrian & bicycle safety.



DC Driving 101

The following simple steps can be taken to prevent unnecessary traffic-related deaths in the District of Columbia.

- Use of cell phones or other electronic devices is illegal while driving in the District of Columbia.
- The Metropolitan Police Department uses automated red-light enforcement technology to enforce the law.
- Police also use photo radar for speed enforcement in the District of Columbia.
- Drivers are allowed to make a right turn on red after a complete stop unless a sign states "No Turn on Red."
- Seat belt laws are strictly enforced in the District of Columbia. Everyone in the vehicle must be buckled at all times - drivers and all passengers, front and back seats.
- Approximately 18 vehicles are stolen every day in the District of Columbia. Protect your vehicle.
- Never drink and drive. Penalties include large fines, suspended licenses and jail time. Greater Washington, DC residents have access to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide, one of the nation's most successful free cab ride programs for would-be impaired drivers. It provides a free cab ride home up to a \$50 fare.
- Parking permits for District of Columbia residents are obtained through the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles; residents' guest parking permits are obtained through the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.
- Allow extra travel time. Traffic congestion and delays are a problem in the area, and can lead to aggressive driving. Extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times.
- Share the road with bicycles, pedestrians, trucks and buses - and other drivers.

» Toward Zero Deaths represents the city's goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. Learn more about how you can improve your safety by going to:

<http://towardzerodeathsdcc.com/>

» Learn more about the Distracted Driving Safety Act, which makes it illegal to use your cell phone while driving, at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/distracteddriving>

» The MPD's Automated Traffic Enforcement includes both red light and speed cameras. Learn more about these initiatives, including locations of cameras at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/photoenforcement>

» Click It or Ticket! Always wear your seatbelt. Learn more about penalties for violators at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/clickit>

» By implementing traffic enforcement initiatives, offering tips on sharing the road, and participating in regional programs, the MPD is improving safety on the streets for walkers, bicyclists and drivers. Here are some tips:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/traffic>

PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER BICYCLE RIDES BY GETTING THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY GEAR AND REGISTERING YOUR BIKE

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, motor vehicle collisions account for nearly 90 percent of all bicycle-related deaths. A collision with a motor vehicle increases the risk of death, severity of injury, and probability of head injury. Help protect your child against such accidents by making sure that he/she wears a helmet at all times while cycling. The District



of Columbia has bicycle helmet laws to protect cyclists under the age of 16, who enjoy the many streets and trails in and around the Nation's Capital. Helmet laws are enforced for minors and encouraged for all adult cyclists, so please make sure you and your child wear a helmet at all times when riding a bike. In addition to mandating that riders under age 16 wear a helmet while riding a bicycle, the law also requires that children under the age of 16 wear a helmet when riding a scooter, skateboard, sled, coaster, toy vehicle, or any similar device.

Bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia. However, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within 6 months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

- » Remember to bike responsibly and pay attention to drivers and pedestrians who also may be out on the road or crossing the street. Check out the MPD's "Share the Road" safety tips for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/sharetheroad>
- » Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>
- » Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>

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>.

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>.

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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