OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) designated October as Crime Prevention Month. This month-long commemoration reflects the adage that prevention pays off. The Metropolitan Police Department and the NCPC strongly believe that community involvement in crime prevention can and has played a vital role in helping many communities stay safe.

There are a variety of actions you can take every day to ensure the safety of yourself and the ones you love. It's important to take precautions wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway. Remember to stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings. When you are out and about, send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going. If something or someone makes you uneasy, trust your instincts—avoid the person or leave.

During Crime Prevention Month, everyone is encouraged to visit the MPD's website and learn more about personal safety measures that can be taken to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. The MPD offers an extensive selection of safety brochures covering topics like identity theft, domestic violence, burglary, robbery and assault, and theft from auto, to name a few.

» The MPD offers a wide selection of crime prevention and safety materials online at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety

» Learn more about the National Crime Prevention Council by visiting the website at: http://www.ncpc.org/

POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department's Police Ride-Along program allows residents to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. "Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The Ride-Along participant receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and individuals interested in law enforcement careers have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer's role in the community. Other Ride-Along goals are to:

- provide citizens the opportunity to get to know their police officers.
- offer citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job.
- educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers.
- provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community.

» For additional contact information and to download an application to participate in the MPD's Police Ride-Along program, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/ridealong

PRACTICE EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS
DURING GREAT SHAKE OUT ON 10/17

On October 17, 2013, at 10:17 am, the District of Columbia will participate in the 2nd Annual "Great Shake Out" earthquake exercise. This is a series of exercises taking place around the country. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) of the District of Columbia have joined forces to help educate government partners to be prepared and to protect themselves during an earthquake.

It is uncertain when the next damaging earthquake will strike, but you can act now to get prepared. Businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals, if properly prepared and informed for earthquakes, are more likely to respond appropriately and reduce their recovery time. Practice is essential. During the drill, participants will practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," the recommended procedure for earthquake preparedness.

The following are steps can be taken before, during, and after an earthquake to lessen the effects of the event:

» For more information about the Great Shake Out, go to:
http://www.shakeout.org

Before

- Check for hazards in the home.
- Identify safe places in each room.
- Have the proper disaster supplies on hand.
- Develop an emergency communication plan in case of separation. Ask an out of state family member or friend to serve as the family contact.

During

- If indoors, **Drop, Cover and Hold On;** stay inside; Take cover under something sturdy and hold on. If sturdy cover is not available, shelter in place in corner of room.
- If outdoors, move into the open, away from anything overhead.
- If in a moving vehicle, come to a safe stop in a clear area (nothing overhead) and stay in vehicle. Once shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Be cognizant of damaged roads, bridges, ramps, downed trees, etc.

After

- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Help the injured or trapped if possible.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for latest information.
- Check up on neighbors, infants, pets, the elderly, etc.
- Be aware that pets may exhibit a defensive or even aggressive demeanor following a crisis.
- Inspect infrastructure for gas leaks, live wires, or structural damage. Do not re-enter buildings until cleared with proper authorities.
- Use flashlights for illumination as opposed to a flame source (due to possible gas leaks).

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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