

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 28, 2014

MPD'S MISSING PERSONS GUIDE OFFERS TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Every year in America an estimated 800,000 children are reported missing, more than 2,000 children each day. Of that number, 200,000 are abducted by family members, and 58,000 are abducted by non-family members. The primary motive for non-family abductions is sexual. Each year 115 children are the victims of the most serious abductions, taken by non-family members and either murdered, held for ransom, or taken with the intent to keep.

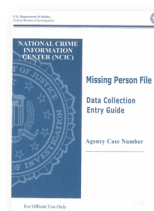
An analysis of attempted abduction cases by found that in 84% of the cases, children escaped would-be abductors through their own actions, by yelling, kicking, pulling away, running away or attracting attention. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) wants parents to know there are things they can do to keep their children safe and it urges parents to take 25 minutes to talk to their children about their safety as a part of its Take 25 national child safety campaign.

To support parents and guardians, the MPD has a comprehensive Missing Persons Guide. The online guide provides helpful advice and resources for parents and guardians whose children are missing. The guide stresses that the first 48 hours following a missing person or runaway episode are the most important in locating a child. While many runaway children return home – or, in the case of missing children, are located – during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard our children. Parents are reminded not wait 48 hours to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he or she is considered missing or a runaway. And, contrary to some commonly held beliefs, police do not wait a designated period of time (such as 24 or 48 hours) to begin investigating a missing person report. The Missing Persons Guide includes instructions on what to do immediately if you believe your child is missing. The online guide also includes information on what preparations to take ahead of time, which will assist investigators if your child does become missing. It also includes valuable telephone numbers and other resources.

REPORTING YOUR MISSING CHILD

We know that finding your loved one is your greatest priority. We are here to help. To aid us in returning your child to you safely, we will need to confirm the child's identity. If your child has dental and medical records, please follow the steps below.

Visit this website — www.mpdcc.gov/missing
Ask your child's dentist and pediatrician/doctor to complete the appropriate sections in the NCIC Missing Person File Data Collection Entry Guide, a 36-page booklet that can be completed online
Bring the completed form to MPD's Missing Person Section, located at **1700 Rhode Island Avenue, NE (202) 576-6768** or missing.persons@dc.gov



- » Don't delay! You DO NOT have to wait 48 hours before reporting a person as missing. Read the MPD's Missing Persons Guide to learn more about what to do if a loved one is missing:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/missing>
- » The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children deals with the issues of missing and sexually exploited children and operates a 24-hour toll free national hotline for reporting missing child cases. Learn more about the NCMEC at:
<http://www.missingkids.com/>
- » The NCMEC encourages parents and guardians to take 25 minutes to talk to a child about safety. Learn more about Take 25 at:
<http://www.take25.org/>

APRIL IS LITTER ENFORCEMENT MONTH

The MPD will join the Alice Ferguson Foundation in its efforts to curtail litter in the Washington area with Litter Enforcement Month (LEM) in April. During the month of April, these area law enforcement agencies will work to educate the public about the problems that littering causes to our physical environment and how it can contribute to the perception that crime is tolerated in a community. Many officers have found hard criminals and repeat offenders by noticing them littering. Some of the consequences of littering include:

- Accumulated trash spoils the watershed, creating a significant public health concern due to contaminated drinking water and impacts on marine life.
- Litter negatively impacts community aesthetics. Trash reduces real estate values and damages area business, recreation, and tourism.
- Trash can become a significant financial burden to families and individuals. A street with improperly discarded trash reduces home values, making it difficult to sell, or contribute to higher taxes in order to manage the storm drains and address the damage caused.
- Trash improperly disposed ends up in places other than where it was discarded. During the month of April, officers will be paying particular attention to littering offenses, so let's keep things clean.

Penalties for littering are as follows:

- **Illegal Dumping.** Offenders may be imprisoned for up to 90 days and can pay \$5,000 for the first offense and \$10,000 for each subsequent offense; any person who dumps for commercial purpose shall be guilty of a felony, \$40,000 fine and imprisonment not to exceed five years.
- **Littering from a Vehicle.** The Notice of Infraction (NOI) for littering from a vehicle carries a fine of \$100. It applies to both public and private property.
- **Non-Traffic Related Littering.** The Notice of Violation (NOV) carries a fine of \$75. If a violator refuses to identify self, he or she can be arrested for "Failure to make Identity Known."

How You Can Help

Pick up the litter and trash in your alley and around your property, rather than sweeping these items into the gutter to eventually end up in one of the District's rivers.

» Is there an area in your neighborhood that you would like to help keep clean? Why not "adopt-a-block?" Learn more through DC's Office of the Clean City (OCCC) at:

<http://occc.dc.gov/service/adopt-block>

» Litter Enforcement Month is sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, whose mission is to raise awareness of litter, illegal dumping, and related crimes; the laws associated with them, and their social and environmental effects on our communities, our economy, and the Potomac River. Learn more about the foundation at:

<http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/litter-enforcement/litter-enforcement-month/>

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>.

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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