

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 11, 2015

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month is sponsored annually in September by the US Department of Homeland Security's "Ready" campaign. It is designed to encourage individuals across the nation to take steps to increase their preparedness, including making a family emergency plan, making an emergency supply kit, and being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them. This year, National Preparedness Month will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. We are encouraging all Americans to join the readiness team and truly help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities to be ready.

The MPD offers a number of recommendations on how people can prepare for a possible emergency situation. The first thing to consider are the basic necessities for survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Households should create an emergency supply kit that provides these necessities for every person (and pet) who lives there. Families should also create a plan and review it as a group so everyone knows where to go, who to contact, and how to reach each other in the event of an emergency. In addition to the recommendations offered by the MPD, the DC Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMA) offers a number of preparedness guides and other emergency planning tools for reference.

Whether you plan to shelter in place or evacuate—which clearly depends on the emergency circumstances—it's important to monitor the news (on TV, the radio, or the internet) for information and official instructions. If you live in the District of Columbia, you may want to register with Alert DC to receive regular emergency alerts via email or text.

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!



- » Plan TODAY for what's on the way. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. To learn how to prepare & to sign up for critical emergency alerts, go to:
<http://hsema.dc.gov/page/72-hours>
- » Get preparedness guides and other emergency planning tools from DC HSEMA online at:
<http://hsema.dc.gov>
- » Did you know AlertDC provides emergency and police alerts, sent directly as a text, email, cell phone message or landline message? To register or download the app, go to:
<http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>
- » Get more information on how you can take steps to prepare for an emergency online at:
<http://www.ready.gov/>



REMINDER TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: CURFEW IN EFFECT YEAR ROUND; SCHOOL YEAR HOURS BEGAN 9/1

The MPD offers this reminder to young people and their families concerning DC's teen curfew: From September 1 through June 30, DC's curfew for young people under the age of 17 starts at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends. During the summer (July and August) DC's curfew starts at 12:01 am, and continues until 6 am seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during school months. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. These include work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. DC's curfew law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. During the first eight months of 2015, the MPD has processed approximately 1,100 curfew violators.

- » For complete details on DC's curfew law, including sample exemptions and alternative resources for young people, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/curfew>

MPD CONTINUES EFFORTS TO KEEP COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED ON FILING POLICE COMMENDATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is committed to providing quality, professional service to all members of the community. The MPD does its best to recognize individuals who provide exemplary service. Community members or visitors to DC who have had a positive experience with an MPD officer or civilian employee are invited to share their positive experiences by submitting a commendation.

Sometimes, however, individuals may feel that a member of the MPD has failed to meet that standard by engaging in misconduct or using excessive force. In these situations, individuals are encouraged to report this information to the MPD or the District of Columbia's Office of Police Complaints (OPC). The Office of Police Complaints is a District Government agency that is independent of the MPD, and its mission is to receive, investigate, and resolve police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPD and DC Housing Authority Police Department officers.

The MPD will investigate all complaints, including anonymous complaints, in a fair, thorough, and impartial manner. OPC has the authority to investigate complaints alleging harassment; use of unnecessary or excessive force; use of language or conduct that is insulting, demeaning, or humiliating; discrimination; retaliation for filing a complaint with OPC; or failure to wear required identification or refusal to provide name and badge number when requested to do so by a member of the public.

» OPC complaint forms and information sheets can be obtained by:

- Visiting OPC at 1400 I St., NW, # 700, Washington, DC 20005
- Calling OPC at (202) 727-3838
- Calling the OPC 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 866-588-0569
- Visiting OPC's website, <http://policecomplaints.dc.gov>

» OPC complaint forms can be submitted:

- In person or by mail to the address above
- By fax to (202) 727-9182
- By dropping forms off at any MPDC district station

» To file a complaint with the MPD, you may:

- Visit any MPD District station or facility
- Call (202) 727-4385 or the 24-hour hotline at 800-298-4006
- Visit MPD's website at mpdc.dc.gov
- Email the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) at citizen.complaints@dc.gov
- Call the IAB TTY number at (202) 898-1454
- Submit your complaint in person at any MPD facility or by mail to: Internal Affairs Division, Metropolitan Police Department, #6 DC Village Lane, SW, Building 1-A, Washington, DC 20032
- Fax your complaint to (202) 727-5116

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>.

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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