

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 25, 2015

MPD TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE ON SEPTEMBER 26

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015, from 10 am to 2 pm. The Metropolitan Police Department is providing the public with a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs. We urge the community to take advantage of this opportunity to discard unwanted, unused, and expired prescription drugs.



The National Prescription Drug Take-Back addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

“Prescription drug abuse is a huge problem and this is a great opportunity for folks around the country to help reduce the threat,” Rosenberg said. “Please clean out your medicine cabinet and make your home safe from drug theft and abuse.”

In the previous nine Take-Back events nationwide from 2010-2014, 4,823,251 pounds, or 2,411 tons of drugs were collected.

» Learn More about the Prescription Drug Take Back, and find a location where you can bring your drugs at:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

| Drop Off Location | Address |
|----------------------------|--|
| First District | 101 M St., SW Washington, DC 20024 |
| 1D Substation | 500 E St., SE Washington, DC 20003 |
| Second District | 3320 Idaho Ave., NW Washington, DC 20016 |
| Third District | 1620 V St., NW Washington, DC 20009 |
| Fourth District | 6001 Georgia Ave., NW Washington, DC 20011 |
| Fourth District Substation | 750 Park Rd., NW Washington, DC 20010 |
| Fifth District | 1805 Bladensburg Rd., NE Washington, DC 20002 |
| Sixth District | 100 42nd St., NE Washington, DC 20019 |
| Seventh District | 2455 Alabama Ave., SE Washington, DC 20020 |

SHARE THE ROAD: TIPS FOR DRIVERS, CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

On average, 265 bicycle and 600 pedestrian crashes are reported to the Metropolitan Police Department each year in the District of Columbia. Approximately 2,700 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured every year in the Washington region, and 89 are killed. What's disappointing is that many of these fatalities could have been avoided. By exercising some common sense and extending some common courtesies, future tragedies can be avoided. The following tips should help drivers, bikers and walkers share the road and get where they're going safely.

Tips for Drivers

Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, drivers should:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- Look before opening your door.
- Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow three feet when passing bicyclists.

Tips for Cyclists

When travelling on city streets, cyclists should follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. This means stopping at stop signs; obeying traffic signals and lane markings; and using hand signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn. Furthermore, cyclists are advised to be aware of their surroundings:

- Don't wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.
- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Do your best to anticipate hazards and adjust your position in traffic accordingly.
- Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line – not in and out of parked cars on the side of the street.

Be visible and wear the proper protective gear. DC law mandates that riders under 16 are required to wear a helmet while cycling in the District of Columbia, but it's a good idea for bikers of any age. Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there (but don't always expect them to see you). And stay visible by riding where drivers are looking (i.e., do not pass on the right). Bicyclist should be particularly mindful of their visibility to other vehicles in the evening, especially when biking during rush hour or later. Legally, cyclists must have a front white light and a red rear reflector and/or a rear red light.

Tips for Walkers and Runners

Whether you're going for an afternoon stroll, commuting to work on foot, or getting some exercise, walking and running are great activities. However, it's important to pay attention. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.
- Keep alert! Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks.

Pedestrians and cyclists are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out. If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for "identification bracelet" will provide numerous results.

- » Get tips for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, and learn how to avoid fines for associated violations at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/sharetheroad>
- » Tips for drivers, bikers and pedestrians are available on the Street Smart website:
<http://www.beststreetsmart.net>
- » Get cycling tips and hand signals from the Street Smart Campaign:
<http://www.beststreetsmart.net/bike.php>
- » Get more walking and running tips from the MPD at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/runners>
- » Aggressive driving is a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety. If you witness aggressive driving, report it. Learn more about aggressive driving at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

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

Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT
mpdc.dc.gov