

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 2, 2016

STAY INFORMED, GET ALERTS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENTS AND SEVERE WEATHER THROUGH ALERTDC

AlertDC is the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to your devices. This system enables the District to provide you with critical information in situations such as traffic conditions, government closures, public safety incidents and severe weather. Get the alerts you want — directly from the District of Columbia's public safety officials and emergency manager. When an incident or emergency occurs, District officials can quickly notify you using this emergency alert and warning system. AlertDC is your personal connection to real-time updates and instructions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

What Type Of Alerts Can I Sign Up For? AlertDC is customizable and allows residents to pick and choose what kind of notifications they want to receive. You can elect to receive alerts about traffic incidents, police events impacting public safety, widespread power and water utility outages, city government delays and closings, and more. Residents can sign up for alerts based on alert type and location.

What Type Of Devices Can I Receive My Alerts On? The following devices can be included to receive alerts from AlertDC:

- Text Messaging/SMS
- E-mail
- Cell Phone
- Landlines
- App

How Do I Sign Up? Signing Up for AlertDC is easy! Simply create a user name and password, add contact information then select any additional community updates to receive.

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



» To get started today, click on the AlertDC "Sign Up For Alerts;" if you already have an account click the "Update Your Profile" button at: <http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>

» 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>

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.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month is sponsored annually in September by the US Department of Homeland Security's "Ready"

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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.

- » 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://www.ready.dc.gov>
- » Get of preparedness guides and other emergency planning tools from DC HSEMA online at: <http://hsema.dc.gov>
- » Did you know DC Alert provides emergency and police alerts, sent directly to your email, cell phone, pager or PDA? To register, go to: <http://textalert.ema.dc.gov/>
- » Get more information on how you can take steps to prepare for an emergency online at: <http://www.ready.gov/september>

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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