



# Crime Fighter

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **City-wide  
Clean Up Day  
May 8th**

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## Welcome

Training requirements for police officers vary greatly across the country. Minnesota has very high standards for law enforcement professionals. To become a licensed Police Officer in Minnesota, you are required to have a college degree, be licensed and earn a number of certifications in a wide variety of proficiencies in order to be employed.

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Agency (POST) governs training and licensure for police officers. In addition to the initial hiring requirements, police officers are required to earn an additional 48 hours of continuing education every three years in order to maintain their license.

There are essentially two types of training: internal and external training. Internal training is on the job training conducted at our police department by our own certified instructors. Internal training generally has a narrow focus in areas like the initial 16 week field training program for new officers, use of force, Taser, and firearms training.

External training is more broad based and as such consists of a wide variety of training topics by certified instructors from outside of our agency. Some examples include monthly online training through the League of Minnesota Cities, emergency vehicle operation, pursuit intervention tactics, crime prevention, first aid, crime scene management, mental health awareness, domestic

assault intervention and interview and interrogation techniques.

Of our current 13 licensed police officers, 9 of them are certified instructors in areas ranging from DARE, Use of Force, Firearms, Taser, Hobble Restraint, Lidar, and crime prevention. We also have two certified Glock Armors and two certified AR15/Rifle Armors on staff.

Training is key to safe and successful operations. We are constantly evaluating our training and operations to ensure that we are providing the very best police service possible to the communities we serve.

*Paul A. Falls*

Director of Public Safety

## Trista Day

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Trista Day event scheduled for May 15, 2021 has been postponed indefinitely. Staff will continue to monitor the situation closely to determine if we can hold this event safely this fall. Stay tuned for more information.



# Minnetrista Police Reserves

The Minnetrista Police Department is accepting applications for positions with the Volunteer Reserve Unit. The purpose of the Reserve Unit is to provide support services to the citizens we serve and to the members of the Minnetrista Police. These services include traffic control, crime prevention, citizen and neighborhood watch programs, residence and business checks, security assignments, and emergency call-outs to disasters and crisis situations.

To qualify for the position, applicants must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a valid MN drivers license
- Pass an oral interview
- Pass a complete background investigation
- After acceptance, Reserves must successfully complete the Hennepin County Reserve Course

If you would like an application or have any questions regarding the Reserve program, please contact Officer Thompson at (952)446-1131.



Temporary road restrictions are typically in place until May

## Minnetrista Road Restrictions

Temporary road restrictions will be posted beginning in March. Once the road is posted it becomes officially restricted. Restrictions will be in place until around mid May. Traffic limitations are necessary at this crucial time for the road system. Heavy loads can cause extensive damage to the base and surface of the street. Repairs to both gravel and bituminous roads are costly for city taxpayers. During this time, most of the City's roads are limited to 4

tons per axle with some roads having higher limits.

If you are having large trucks deliver to your home during the weight restriction months, please contact the City office to find out what the limit is on your road.

The Minnetrista Police currently carry scales in their patrol vehicles to measure trucks to ensure they are abiding by the weight restrictions. They do enforce these weight re-

strictions and will ticket anyone who does not meet the requirements.

For more information, visit the Public Works section of the City website:

[www.cityofminnetrista.com](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com)

## Online Safety for Teens

You have tons of opportunities to share all kinds of information when you're online—about yourself, your family, and your friends. Before you do, remember:

**Your online actions can have real-world consequences.**

The pictures you post or send and the words you write can affect the people in your life.

**Once you post something online, you can't take it back.**

That goes for sending messages, too. Even if you delete it, older versions may

exist on other people's devices. That means that photo or comment you really don't want people to see anymore could be living somewhere—permanently.

**What you post could have a bigger "audience" than you think.** Even if you use privacy settings, it's impossible to have complete control over who sees your pictures, videos, profiles, comments, or texts. Before you post or send, think about how you will feel if your family, teachers,

coaches, or neighbors find it.

**Get someone's OK before you share photos or videos they're in.** It can be embarrassing, unfair, and even unsafe to send or post photos and videos without getting permission from the people in them.

For more information and tips, visit the Federal Trade Commission website:

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

# Winter Survival In Your Car

Everyone should be cautious about traveling in extreme winter weather. Cold, snow and ice are demanding on cars, drivers and passengers. Cold affects metal, rubber and other materials in your car. It can reduce the effectiveness of your vehicle's battery by at least 50%. It can freeze tires and keep them flat on the bottom for at least the first half-mile of travel. It can thicken your car's lubricants, making the engine work too hard. Most importantly, extreme winter weather can threaten your life. Follow these tips to stay safe as you drive in Minnesota.

**Plan Before You Travel:**

Simple planning can save you trouble and even save your life.

**Prepare Your Vehicle:**

Be sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition. Take along emergency equipment and keep it accessible. Keep your gas tank at least 1/2 full.

**Be Aware of the Weather:**

Listen to forecasts, road reports and storm warnings. Dress appropriately. Pack extra scarves and mittens. Allow extra time for trips in severe weather.

**Make Yourself Easy to Find:**

Tell someone where you are going and the route you will take. Report your safe arrival. If you stall or get stuck, tie a colored banner to your antenna or hang it out a window. At

night, remove the cover from your dome light and turn the light on. Road crews or rescue units can see a small glow at a considerable distance. To reduce battery drain, use emergency flashers only if you hear approaching vehicles. Keep one person on watch; don't let everyone rest at the same time.

**Stay in your Vehicle:**

Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might lose your way or become exhausted, collapse and risk your life. Your vehicle is a good shelter.

**Avoid Overexertion:**

Shoveling snow or repositioning your car by pushing it takes a lot of effort in storm conditions. You could risk heart attack or injury. Take it easy!

**Keep Cool—2 ways:**

1. Calm down and think. The storm will end and you will be found.
2. Don't work enough to get hot and sweaty. Wet clothing loses insulations value, making you susceptible to hypothermia.

**Keep Fresh Air in your Vehicle:**

It's much better to be cold and awake than comfortably warm and sleepy. Wet or wind-driven snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your vehicle. Don't run the engine unless you are

sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow. Keep snow off the radiator to prevent the engine from overheating.

**Stay Warm Without Fuel:**

Keep your blood circulating freely by loosening tight clothing, changing positions frequently and moving your arms and legs. Huddle close to one another. Rub your hands together or put them in your armpits or between your legs. Remove your shoes occasionally and rub your feet.

**Don't Expect to be Comfortable:**

The challenge is to survive until you're found.

**Make a Survival Kit:**

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items: small candles and matches, small/ sharp knife and plastic spoons, red bandanna or cloth, pencil and paper, large plastic garbage bag, safety pins, whistle, snacks, cell phone adapter to plug into a lighter, plastic flashlight and spare batteries.

Store bulky items in a accessible place—booster cables, basic tools, shovel, tow cables or chain, sleeping bag or blankets, road flares and reflectors, snowmobile suit and heavy boots.

Information obtained from the MN Department of Public Safety

*Winter parking restrictions are still in effect for both Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius*

## Winter Parking Reminder / Lake Access Parking

We would like to remind residents of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius that the winter parking rules **are still in effect**.

The following is a summary of the rules for each city and the dates the restrictions are lifted:

**MINNETRISTA**

**No parking on streets be-**

**tween 2am and 6am, November 1st—March 31st.**

**ST. BONIFACIUS**

**No motor vehicle parking on the streets between 3am and 7am, November 1st—April 1st.**

Even if there is no snow on the ground, the ordinance is still in

effect.

The lake access parking restrictions are in effect all year long, which includes the winter months. Be sure to read all signs at the boat landings for parking restrictions and hours.

**VIOLATORS WILL BE ISSUED CITATIONS.**



### Contact Information

#### Minnetrista Public Safety Department

7651 County Road 110 W  
Minnetrista, MN 55364

Phone: (952)446-1131

Fax: (952)446-1623

Email: [police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us](mailto:police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us)



#### Fight Crime. Promote Safety



## Winter Driving and Plows

Follow these tips for safer winter driving when around snowplows:

- Turn on your headlights and wear your seat belt.
- Slow down: allow at least 10 car lengths between your vehicle and the plow.
- Stay behind the snowplow. The road behind a snowplow is safer to drive on.
- Watch for snowplows that turn or exit frequently, and often with little warning.
- Never drive into a snow cloud.

Snowplows travel much slower than posted speeds because it is most effective for clearing roads. The driver's field of vision is severely restricted behind the truck, and the driver must rely on mirrors

to see to the rear and side of the truck. Remember to:

- Be patient, and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.
- Stay alert for snowplows that may travel over centerlines or partially in traffic to further improve road conditions.
- Slow down to a safe speed for current conditions. Snowplows typically move at slower speeds.

Don't forget, you and the snowplow drivers are in the storm together. Be patient with the snowplows and drive according to road conditions. Heavy traffic congestion affects snowplowing operations, so if you're stuck in traffic, so are the snowplows.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation website:

[www.dot.state.mn.us](http://www.dot.state.mn.us)