



Crime Fighter

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PD and City Offices
closed:

- November 11
- November 25
- November 26
- December 23
- December 24

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Sledding Safety

Most people can agree that kids on slippery saucers careening down an icy hill at upwards of 20 miles per hour can be dangerous. According to the Center on Injury Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, more than 20,000 kids younger than 19 are treated for sledding injuries on average each year. Injuries often occur when the sled hits a stationary object or the child falls off. That's why parents would be wise to purchase sleds that can be controlled with a steering mechanism and brakes.

If you are planning on taking the kids to the local hill, don't just drop them off, especially if they're under age 10. Stick around while they sled, make sure all sledders wear a helmet—sledding injuries often include skull fractures—and be sure to share these important guidelines

with them so they can enjoy tobogganing and sledding safely.

- Make sure all equipment is in good condition, free of sharp edges and cracks
- Sled on spacious, gently sloping hills with a level run-off at the end so the sled can safely stop
- Check slopes for bare spots, holes and obstructions, such as fences, rocks, poles or trees
- Do not sled on or around frozen lakes, streams or ponds
- Riders should sit or lay on their back on top of the sled with feet pointing downhill; never sled head first
- Dress warmly and wear thick gloves or mittens

and heavy boots to protect against frostbite and injury.

For more information, visit the National Safety Council website:

www.nsc.org



Winter Parking Reminder

We would like to remind the citizens of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius that the winter parking rules to into effect on November 1st.

The following is a summary of the rules for each city:

Minnetrista

No parking on streets between 2am and 6am, November 1st through March 31st.

St. Bonifacius

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

Even if there is no snow on the ground the ordinance is still in effect. Also, even if the road is not posted for winter parking, the ordinance is still

in effect.

In addition, please keep all items, including recycling and garbage containers, off the street to prevent them from getting hit by snowplows.

Also, it is very difficult to see children playing in large piles of snow that accumulate at the ends of drive-

TOYS FOR TOTS



This year, the Minnetrista Police Department and the Minnetrista City Hall will be a drop off location for Toys for Tots. Toys will be delivered by the Minnetrista Police to the Golden Valley drop location before Christmas.

We will be accepting new toys between now and December 10th.

It is recommended that the new toys be in value of \$10

or more and be unwrapped.

No candy or military/weapon type toys will be accepted.

Children ages 0-15 need toys, with the ages of 0-2 and 10-14 in the greatest need.

Donations are tax deductible.

If you would like more information, please contact the Police Department at (952) 446-1131.



Sharing the Road with Snowplows

Snowplows travel much slower than the 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 con-

ditions for your trip.

- Stay back at least 10 car lengths between your vehicle and a plow.
- Stay alert for snowplows that turn or exit frequently and often with little warning. They also 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, we're 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.

Fish House Crime Watch

Crime is on the increase, and our peaceful Minnesota lakes are not immune. These lakes become small towns filled with thousands of fish houses every winter. The average fish house is equipped with \$300-\$500 or more in sporting goods and personal property. A criminal

must have the ability to enter your fish house, the desire to steal or vandalize, and the opportunity. You can minimize all three of these factors by undertaking security measures, marking your property with identifying marks, and taking as much of your property as possible

away from the fish house when it is not in use.

Communicate with your fishing neighbors and nearby homeowners and agree to watch out for one another's property. It is also important to report suspicious activity while it is occurring.

Make sure to secure your fish house every time it is not in use

Sharing the Road with Farmers

Motorists traveling on Minnesota highways this Fall should be aware of large farm equipment moving from farm to farm, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

“Harvest season is ramping up across Minnesota and farmers need the highways to access their fields,” said Brian Sorenson, state traffic engineer. “Motorists need to be prepared to encounter slow-moving farm vehicles, especially on rural, two lane roads.”

According to the last five years of data from 2016 to 2020, there were 532 crashes reported involving farm equipment in Minnesota resulting in 242 injuries and 11 deaths. The 2020 data is preliminary. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in these crashes.

Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down

and stop. The equipment also makes wide turns and sometimes crosses over the center line. In addition, farm vehicles can create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles.

Motorists should:

- Slow down when approaching farm equipment, then navigate with care and caution.
- Watch for debris dropped by trucks. It is safer to brake and drive through debris than to veer into oncoming cars or off the road.
- Be patient and wait for a safe place to pass.
- Wear seatbelts and minimize distractions.
- Drive with headlights on at all times.

Farm equipment operators should:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment for visible.
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30mph.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

For more information, visit the MN Dot website:

www.dot.state.mn.us



Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

The following are tips that you can use to prepare yourself, home and vehicle before winter storms and extreme cold hit:

Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment

Prepare your home and family:

- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows and covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn,

shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case of pipe bursts).

Prepare your car:

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels
- Battery and ignition system
- Brakes
- Exhaust system
- Fuel and air filters
- Heater and defroster
- Lights and flashing hazard lights
- Oil
- Thermostat
- Windshield wiper equipment

Install good winter tires, maintain at least 1/2 tank of gas, and place an emergency kit in your vehicle.

For more information, visit:

www.fema.gov



Contact Information

Minnetrista Public Safety Department

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Minnetrista, MN 55364

Phone: (952)446-1131

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Email: police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us



Fight Crime. Promote Safety



Holiday Shopping Safety

The National Crime Prevention Council (www.ncpc.org) reminds holiday shoppers to keep safety in mind as they hunt for bargains.

Shopping in stores:

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to your car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep your receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- Consider alternative options to pay for your merchandise, such as on-time use or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auctions sites.
- Wait until asked before taking

out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front pants pocket.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the truck or, if possible, take them directly home.

Shopping with small children:

- Make a plan in case you are separated from the children.
- Select a central meeting place
- Teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store se-

curity employees if they need help.

Shopping online:

- Before using the internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.