

Waunakee Police Department

December 2020 Newsletter

Happy
Holidays!

The Waunakee Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



December, January and February are the leading months for home fires. This time of year we are starting up the furnace, lighting the fireplace and decorating with a plethora of indoor and outdoor lighting.

Inspect your furnace

Clean and inspect your furnace and all the ducts. Remember to change your furnace filter each month during the winter and to remove all flammable material from the area around your furnace.

Clean and check your chimney

If you use your chimney a half-dozen times or more each year, it is a good idea to have it cleaned of soot and creosote every year. Make sure your chimney doesn't have any cracks. If your chimney does have air leaks, it can change the flame in the fireplace and possibly ignite and cause a fire outside the fireplace.

Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.

Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

Do not overload electrical outlets.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.

Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.

Keep trees fresh by watering daily.

Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

Use battery-operated candles.

Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).

Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.

A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations (NFPA).

Protect cords from damage.

To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.

Check decorations for certification label.

Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.

Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).

Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11pm and 7am (NFPA).



10 Checks to Spot Fraud

1. Identify Imposters

Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, such as a family member, government official, charity or company you do business with (Amazon, Walmart etc.) Do not send money or information to any unexpected request. These requests may come by text, email or phone call.

2. Verify with simple online search

Type a company or product name into a search bar online with words like “review” “Complaint” or “Scam” Example: Google – Amazon Scam. Or search for phrases for example: IRS Call. Read comments online and you will usually be able to confirm the scam attempt.

3. Don't Believe Caller ID

There are many ways for scammers to fake caller ID information so the numbers you see are not always real. If someone calls you asking for money or personal information, simply hang up. If you think they may have been telling you the truth, call a number you know to be true for whoever called you to verify.

4. Don't pay upfront for a promise

Someone may ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance or even a job. They may say you have won a prize, but first you must pay the taxes and fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear or they will come up with an excuse for the delay in their promise and ask for more money.

5. Consider how they request you pay

Government officials and honest companies will not request you pay using unorthodox means such as iTunes, Google Play, Green Dot or other gift cards. Credit cards have built in fraud protection; gift cards and wiring money do not. Consider if the payment option they are requesting makes sense. Question the requestor on the legitimacy of their payment options. Often a scammer will become argumentative or try to threaten or rush you into payment, legitimate entities will not.

6. Talk to someone

Before you give up your money or personal information talk with someone you trust. Scammers will want you to make decisions in a hurry. They may even threaten you. Slow down, check the story, do an online search, consult an expert (ask a police officer) or just tell a friend. Often sharing the situation with an outside person allows them to have a better perspective and help you spot the scam attempt.

7. Hang up on robocalls

If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, just hang up. Don't press “1” or “0” to speak with someone to be taken off their list; this often leads to more calls. Phone recorded sales attempts such as this are illegal and often the product is bogus.

8. Be skeptical about free trial offers

Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancelation policy. Always review your monthly statement for charges you do not recognize.

9. Don't deposit a check and wire money back

By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days but uncovering a fake check could take weeks. If a check you deposited turns out to be fake you will be responsible for repaying the bank.

10. Sign up for free scam alerts

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) periodically sends out alerts and information about current scams. To receive this email alert go to ftc.gov/scams and sign up.

- If you believe you have been defrauded money or victimized by a scam, contact the Waunakee Police Department and make a report.
- If you spot a scam but haven't been defrauded, report it to the FTC by visiting ftc.gov/complaint or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)

Forward Dane

On November 10, Governor Ever's issued [Executive Order #94 PDF](#) advises Wisconsinites to stay home, urges precautions Wisconsinites should take to stay safe if they have to leave their home, and encourages businesses to take additional steps to protect workers, customers, and the surrounding community.

This state order will be in effect in Dane County in addition to Dane County [Emergency Order #9 PDF](#).

The entire Forward Dane Plan can be found here: <https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/ForwardDane.pdf>

Complaints regarding the compliance with this public health order should be directed to Dane County Public Health as they are the authority on this issue. Complaints can be sent to the below email address:

compliance@publichealthmdc.com

Lost & Found

The following items have been recovered by officers from September 1st –November 30th. If you think one of these items may be yours contact the police department. You will be asked to provide a further description of the item for ownership confirmation.

- Drill case
- Kitchen Knife
- Ear bud case
- Metal detector
- Canopy
- Cordless drill
- Fish locator
- Milk crate
- Motorola cell phone
- Cash *Must provide exact amount by denomination, date missing and close proximity to found location.

Alternate-Side Parking begins November 1st



Odd-Even side parking begins in Waunakee November 1st 2020 and will end April 1st 2021. Alternate-side parking is regulated between 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. on Waunakee Streets. Park your vehicles so it will be on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered mornings and on the odd side of the street on odd numbered mornings unless posted otherwise. The Waunakee Public Works Department works very hard every winter to keep our streets clear of snow and safe for driving. This can be challenging if vehicles do not follow the alternate-side parking ordinance. If your vehicle is found in violation you will receive a \$15 citation and may be towed at the vehicle owner's expense. If you have questions about alternate-side parking in your area feel free to contact the police department and ask an officer.



Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles are only allowed to be operated on designated trails or on private property with the owner's consent while in the village limits.

If the snowmobile is being operated on private property and not on a designated trail, the snowmobile cannot be operated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except when returning home via the most direct route. The speed limit is 15 mph throughout the village. Snowmobiles may not be operated on sidewalks.

A map of the Village of Waunakee snowmobile trails can be found at:

<http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/490>

Village Winter Rules & Regulations

For more information visit:

<http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/453/Snow-RemovalWinter-Rules-and-Regulations>

Trash/Recycle Containers

Please remember that trash and recycle containers must be placed behind the curb. Placement anywhere else is prohibited by village ordinance. Ordinance Sec. 54.64. If your containers are in the street and get damaged from the snow plow, it will not be the responsibility of the village to replace your containers.

Mail Box Policy

Village snow plow operators try very hard to avoid mailboxes when plowing streets. However, weak posts or support brackets, rusted mail box components and improperly placed mail boxes could result in damage.

If your mailbox does not meet the placement guidelines the village will NOT replace or reimburse for damage.

The Village will provide reimbursement up to \$50 (receipt is necessary).

Claims must be received by May 1 and must be accompanied by a picture of the damage and receipt(s) for replacement materials. Claims will be reviewed and forwarded to the Village Board for approval.

Holiday (Christmas) Tree Pickup

When discarding your tree, place it at the curbside or in the alley trunk side to the street. Please remove all ornaments, lights, and tree stands. Trees in tree bags will not be collected.

Trees will be picked-up the week of and 2 weeks after Christmas. Trees still on curbside will be picked up on regular brush pickup days, which occur every other week.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 608-849-5892.



Watch out for Deer

The end of September and into January kicks off a flurry of deer activity. Please make sure you watch for deer when driving especially during the early morning and late evening. Hwy 113, Woodland Dr. and Arboretum Dr. are roads where deer are commonly seen crossing the roads in Waunakee.

Wis. Statute 29.349 now allows for the possession and removal of a deer carcass from the scene of an accident once the individual notifies the DNR by calling 608-267-7691 and provides their name and address and carcass location. Tagging vehicle killed deer by law enforcement has been discontinued.



Please "like" our Waunakee Police Department Facebook page. We provide information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Waunakee-Police-Department/349673238430794>

Newsletter ideas or topics

If you have a topic or idea you would like us to consider for future Waunakee Police Newsletter, please email the idea for consideration to the address below.

Send questions to newsletter@waunakeepd.org. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.