

# Waunakee Police Department

## Newsletter

### June 2016



## Paying for work zone carelessness

In Wisconsin, we take work zone safety seriously. The penalties for careless driving are steep.

- **It can cost you money.** A normal speeding ticket can be expensive, but that's nothing compared to traffic violations made in the zone. In a work zone, penalties are doubled - and fines usually increase every year.
- **It can cost you time.** The consequences for injuring or killing someone in a work zone are especially serious. Careless drivers may face thousands of dollars in fines and up to 3<sup>1/2</sup> years in prison if they injure someone in a work zone. The fines for vehicular manslaughter are even higher, as are the prison terms - as many as 10 years. These punishments may increase if the driver was intoxicated or a repeat offender.
- **It can cost your life.** The greatest cost of irresponsible driving isn't calculated in dollars or years. Wisconsin sees nearly 2,000 work zone crashes a year. Sometimes, people die. And those tragedies change the lives of everyone left behind - workers, drivers and passengers, family and friends.

The fact is, people who work along Wisconsin's roads are extremely vulnerable. But not every crash in the zone involves workers. In reality, drivers and their passengers are the most common work zone fatalities. Driving safely protects people on the road and the people in your own car. Driving safely protects you. So follow the rules, follow the law and be safer in the zone. For more information go to <http://wisconsin.gov>



## Protect yourself from common scams

### **IRS Scam**

Fake IRS calls are hitting Wisconsin residents, and everyone is asked to be on guard against these threatening scam attempts. If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately. The Consumer Protection Hotline at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has seen a spike in inquiries about this scam. Consumers statewide are reporting aggressive calls from scammers claiming to be with the IRS, demanding immediate payment for (fake) back taxes. The callers typically threaten the potential victims with legal action or jail time. In the latest round of IRS impostor calls, the scammers have added iTunes gift cards as a way to pay. According to the Federal Trade Commission, other payment methods scammers might ask for include Amazon gift cards; PayPal; reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit, or Vanilla; or by wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram.

### **Advance Fee Scams**

In these types of frauds, you are contacted, usually by telephone/email, and told you have won a grand prize which is a very large sum of money. To collect the winnings, you must pay the taxes/fees up front for the money to be sent to you. The money you send is usually to a location out of State or another Country. Sometimes you are contacted again and told there were problems with the winnings and you must send additional money to collect your prize. The prize never comes and you have been scammed.

### **Theft by False Pretenses**

A form of theft whereby the possession and title to money or other property is voluntarily transferred from the victim to the suspect who has made a misrepresentation (deception). The suspect never had any intention of holding up their end of the deal. Before you realize their dishonesty they are long gone with your money.

### **Lost Pet or Lost Property Scam**

You place an ad in the newspaper or online classifieds about a lost pet or lost property. You then receive correspondence from a suspect who says he found your lost item but he is now hundreds of miles away. He will return your property (or advise of the location of your pet) after you send a "reward" by Western Union.

### **Mail Theft Scam**

Incoming and outgoing mail can be stolen from your mailbox. Your checks can be "washed" to remove payee and amount information and altered so the suspect can cash them for more money. The suspect can obtain your name and credit card numbers from your outgoing bills and use this information to charge new purchases. Credit card applications can be stolen and altered. The suspect then applies for a new credit card in your name and goes shopping.

## **Home Repair Scam**

These suspects go door-to-door offering you a great deal on yard work, roof repair, chimney sweeping, house painting, etc. They may claim to have supplies left over from their last job so they say they can save you money. Usually their products and labor are inferior. At the completion of the work, they claim to have used more supplies or there was more work than anticipated so they demand more money from you. Or they get money up front from you and never complete the job.

## **Phishing**

This is a term used when the identity thieves send out a very official looking E-mail to try and convince you to provide them with your personal information. They will try to deceive you into thinking your bank has sent the E-mail by placing the banks logo in the message. The E-mail will ask you to "verify" your personal information, i.e. your social security number or account number. Once the identity thieves have this information they may use it to apply for new credit in your name, or make a withdrawal from your account. Your bank already has this information and will never ask you to verify this information via E-mail. Be very aware of this type of scheme. Do not ever respond to this type of E-mail. If you have sustained a financial loss immediately contact your financial institution and contact the police.



## **Summer Child Safety**

School will be out and children will have more freedom. Parents will decide when they think their children are mature enough to spend time in the home without adult supervision. There may be a time when a child will be home alone, even if for a very short period. The following rules should be learned and followed:

Never tell anyone that you are home alone.

All exterior doors and windows should be closed and locked. Don't forget the sliding glass doors.

If anyone comes to the door, don't open the door. Look through the viewer in the door or a window to make sure you know the person.

Talk to that person without opening the door by asking, "Who is it?" If it is a stranger, tell them your mom and dad are busy and can't come to the door right now. If they do not leave promptly, call 9-1-1 for help.

The same rule above applies when the phone rings. Tell them your Parents are busy and ask them to call back later.

If you have an answering machine, let it answer for you. Listen to the message.

Never touch anything in the medicine cabinet or any cleaning products anywhere in the house.

Never take medicine, including vitamins, without approval of your parents.

Do not handle matches or appliances including the stove and microwave.



## Hosting graduation parties can cost you!

A warning to parents and other adults thinking of hosting a Graduation party that involves alcohol being served to those under 21...don't do it. The Waunakee Police Department often receives reports of underage drinking parties related to the Graduation season. According to the CDC more than 4,300 deaths to underage youth are attributed to alcohol, including but not limited to drinking and driving, accidental falls and fights. These deaths are preventable.

If WNPD officers contact a person under 21 whom has been drinking alcohol they will receive a citation. The citation will range from \$98.80 - \$439.00 depending on the age of the person and number of prior offenses.

If you are an adult who is hosting or procuring the alcohol you can be fined for each violation. Each violation is typically the number of underage individuals found to be drinking at the party or provided alcohol. The fines could reach thousands of dollars very quickly. The bottom line is: "the parents that host lose the most", don't be a party to underage drinking. Don't buy alcohol for parties when minors will be attending. Eliminate the alcohol and the problem goes away.

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## Waunakee Police to Host National Night Out

On Wednesday August 10, 2016 the Waunakee Police Department will be hosting their National Night Out festivities at Village Park in Waunakee from 5pm-7pm. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, and co-sponsored by the Waunakee Police Department, will involve over 10,000 communities from all 50 states.

National Night out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and united with the police in their efforts to make Waunakee a safe community to live in.

There will be activities for kids, prizes, free brats and hot dogs, and numerous displays by various law enforcement agencies. Med-Flight has also been invited. Members of the community are encouraged to sign up to win one of the many prizes to be given away at Village Park during National Night Out.

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## Fireworks Reminder

Fireworks in Wisconsin are strictly regulated by state law Wis Stat. 167.10

Very few fireworks are actually legal in Wisconsin, without having a permit. Those “fireworks” are; sparklers, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs and caps, noisemakers and confetti poppers with less than ¼ of a grain of explosive mixture. These “fireworks” are the type usually found in convenience and grocery stores.

Possessing or using any other fireworks such as firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, without a valid permit is illegal. A general rule of thumb is if the device leaves the ground or explodes it is illegal.

Almost all fireworks permits held by users of the fireworks are not valid. Valid fireworks permits can only be issued by a mayor, village president, or a municipal employee they have designated. If a valid permit is issued it is only valid within the city, village or town where it was issued. Therefore, permits issued by fireworks vendors are not valid.



### Facebook

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.

Questions can be sent to [newsletter@waunakeepd.org](mailto:newsletter@waunakeepd.org). Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified