



St. Bernard Police Newsletter

Holiday Safety Tips For more info visit these sites: <http://www.ncpc.org/>
<http://www.auto-theft.info/> <http://www.alarm.org/consumer-info.html>



The St. Bernard Police Department would like to wish every resident and business partner a safe and blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year. This holiday season should be a time of great joy as we celebrate and share gifts with those close to us. Unfortunately, it can be a time when crime becomes more prevalent. We are now in the high robbery theft season. We have seen an increase in street robberies and vehicles thefts. These holiday safety tips are offered to help make your holiday season a safe and happy one. Please take some time and read them and share them with your family and friends. **BE ALERT:** While shopping walk confidently, with your head up and stay in well lighted areas. Pay attention to people walking in front of and behind you. Pay attention when you are in crowded areas, such as buses, malls and stores filled with shoppers. Women should not carry a purse. If you carry a purse, keep it in front of you and close to your body. Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases. When using public washrooms, use extreme caution — try to avoid putting your purse on the hooks or door handles. Men should keep their wallets in their front pockets. Keep your keys in your pocket if it is possible. Keys should not be carried in your purse. In the event of a purse snatching, the thief will have your address and keys to your home. **BE DISCREET:** The tendency to carry large amounts of cash is greater during the holidays. Take special precautions when carrying large amounts of cash. Use checks or credit cards whenever possible; and try to take only the one credit card you will use during the shopping trip. Take only the amount of cash you feel will be necessary for that day's purchases. "Transfer the risk," that means to separate the cash from you credit card(s). If you have a considerable amount of cash, "don't place all your eggs in one basket". Put some in one pocket and some in your wallet or purse. Avoid flashing money in public. Arranging cash bills in a particular order in your wallet will help you to count and remove them without a lot of hassle or display. When using an ATM in crowded areas, stand directly in front

of the machine. Cover your actions as you put in your personal identification number (pin code). Should a thief steal your wallet, they will have your credit card and pin code. Upon receiving the cash from the ATM, put the money in your pocket immediately and walk away to a better area before you transfer the cash to your wallet. Don't forget to take the receipt. When using credit cards, make sure the only one credit slip is printed with your charge card. Also be sure to tear up any carbons that may be used to complete this transaction. **SECURE YOUR CAR:** Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lighted area. Store your packages in the trunk of the car or cover them up. If you take packages to your car but plan to return to the store or mall, drive your car to a new location within the lot. Criminals watch shoppers who simply drop their purchases into their cars. Always have your keys ready when approaching your car and check the back seat and floors before getting in. Lock your doors immediately after entering your car. Ask mall security to walk you to your car if you do not feel safe. **PROTECT YOUR CAR:** Shopping malls jammed with holiday shoppers mean crowded parking lots. The Independent Insurance Agents of America warn that unpredictable traffic patterns and preoccupied drivers cause thousands of parking lot mishaps each year. Watch for cars cutting diagonally across lots, drive slowly and use your turn signals. When backing out of a parking spot, be aware of waiting cars and pedestrians in the area. **SECURE YOUR HOME:** When you are out shopping, leave some lights on at home. If you plan to be away for a long time. Contact the PD or complete a vacation form online on our website so we can keep an eye on your home. Make sure friends/neighbors check out your home and collect packages/mail and clean sidewalks. Hopefully by taking these simple safety precautions, our holiday will go smoothly as can be expected at this time of year. By staying on guard, you won't let some would-be criminal ruin your holiday season.

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Please Call Us We are still hearing citizens say "I have seen a particular activity taking place, but we didn't want to bother you guys." Please understand that you are not bothering the police when you have questions regarding suspicious or out of ordinary activity and or other nuisances. In fact, it is the early recognition of a problem and quick involvement of the police that keeps small nuisances from growing into major problems and may provide the information to help solve or prevent a crime. We desperately need the eyes and ears of an informed community to keep our citizens safe. You can call us anytime. **Questions** If you have a law enforcement question or topic that you would like us to feature in an upcoming newsletter, mail your request to the PD attention Newsletter Publisher or email us.

Crime Prevention

Tips — How can I keep my house or business so that it is not targeted by criminals and is safe? You want to walk your property and check the perimeter, exterior and interior for the following items. **PERIMETER:** Light up the perimeter. Especially around entrances, windows, garages and near your parked vehicles. A simple spot light works well in most cases. Others prefer the motion sensor type lighting. However you need to be careful on how you set these type lights up so that you are not having them go off with every animal that wanders by. Check the trees, shrubs, hedges to make sure they are trimmed so that they are not blocking any lighting. Keep the driveway free of obstructions and places for persons to hide. Check your fences, gates and security grates to see if they are in good repair and lockable. Make sure that garages and detached structures are lit up and secured. Valuables should never be left outside. Vehicles should be locked and valuables removed. Ladders and fire escapes should be secured. **EXTERIOR:** Install jimmy and pry resistant key-in-knob locks on doors. Use a solid wood or metal door at least 1 3/4 inch thickness versus decorative with glass which can be easily broken. Use heavy duty deadbolt locks with a one inch bolt on all exterior doors. Damaged doors or windows should be replaced. Frames should be fitted tightly to the doors. Exterior doors can be fitted with a 180 degree view

Teen Drivers (Crash Actions) For more info visit: <http://www.ipromiseprogram.com/reports/> <http://www.safetrip.org/> <http://www.saferideneews.com> <http://www.drivers.com/> <http://www.duipictures.com/dui.htm> <http://www.madd.org/home/>

Does your teen know what to do in the event of a crash? Do you? This survey summarizes the input of law enforcement offices across North America and could keep you and your teen safer in the event of an already dangerous situation. Recommended actions taken after a crash: After the impact has come to a full stop, remain calm and assess the situation. Check for injuries and look out at the roadway to determine if there is risk of injury. In the event of an injury, render life saving first aid if you are qualified to do so. At the same time contact EMS and Police or have a bystander do it for you. To reduce the risk of shock open a window for fresh air. If the vehicle is in an unsafe area and can safely be moved to the side of the road, go ahead and do so but don't leave the scene until Police arrive. Set up road flares or other emergency signaling devices. If that is not possible have another person stand some distance back to warn oncoming motorists of the danger. If you are in a high traffic area and it is not safe to leave the area, (I.e. Interstate High Speed Lane) remain in your seat with your seatbelt fastened. Do not stand outside your vehicle. Once the crash scene is stabilized, do not discuss fault with other drivers. This can lead to arguments which can pose danger. It is appro-



priate to exchange information such as license plate number, insurer, address and phone. Be sure to get witness information as well. The Police will normally get this information for you and it can be obtained from the final Police report. If there is significant injuries and/or damage it is best to have a Police Report filed do not assume

that the person sharing information with you is being totally honest because there are con-artists that make a profession out of crashes. Cooperate completely with the Police and EMS personnel. The Police Officer will record the facts of the incident, take statements and write citations based upon observed violations of law. Your insurer or lawyer may use this information to assess fault and liability. Call your parents and inform them of your situation. Tell them if you require any assistance such as medical aid or transportation.

So what else would most Police Officers like to tell the parents of new teen drivers? Set rules and expectations—make a contract for use of the car. Remember parents, you are a role model—hopefully for the better. Monitor your teen's plans and whereabouts—communicate. Slow down— don't speed. Buckle up—it may not be cool but it saves lives. Don't drink and drive nor be a passenger if the driver has been drinking. Forbid or at least limit the number of teen passengers. Don't buy your teen a car, but if you must make it a safer model and definitely not something sporty or fast. Remember a car is not a toy. Operate safely on the roads.

Meet Your Officers (Ron Hausfeld and Doug Roll)

Officer Ron Hausfeld began his career as a police officer with the City of St. Bernard in 1989. Ron is a proud graduate of Roger Bacon High School and attended Ohio University. Ron works first shift and is very busy working with the schools. He



Officer Ron Hausfeld

Officer Doug Roll began his career as a police officer with the City of St. Bernard in 1986. Doug graduated from Roger Bacon High School in 1980 and has an Accounting Degree from the University of Cincinnati. Doug is an integral part of our department's motorcycle program and property room and also serves as a union representative. He



Officer Doug Roll

serves as our vehicle maintenance officer keeping the cruisers looking as sharp as they do. Ron enjoys sports and just spending time with the family. He is a lifelong resident and his family has always been very active in St. Bernard. Ron is always there to help a neighbor in need.

and has done an excellent job designing and organizing our property room. Doug works dayshift and is very active with the schools. Doug is happily married and has three lovely children. He enjoys traveling, playing the stocks and improving property in the City. He is also a history buff and his favorite number is 8. Doug always has a smile on his face and is willing to go that extra mile to help someone in need.

Outstanding Service Awardee — Simon Talamantes

One of our residents, Simon Talamantes was awarded a special Outstanding Service Award for his donation of Spanish Translation services to the PD 24 hours a day for the last 10 years. We admire Simon's love of the language, the law and his civic pride. On behalf of the City, Mayor Siegel presented Simon with a key to the City and a proclamation declaring Nov 21,



2002 as Mr. Simon Talamantes Day. On behalf of the Police Department, Chief Moeller presented Simon with a caring pyramid award with the inscription "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Congratulations Simon! Gracias Amigo!

Good Suspect/Criminal Descriptions Increases the Probability of Arrests

When you observe a suspicious person or a criminal in action, it is important to observe closely and record as many items that you can. This may include but is not limited too: Suspects sex, race, height, approximate weight, hair color, eye color, facial hair, glasses, clothing description, shoes/

boots, hat, any identifying characteristics (glasses, scars, tattoos, fingers missing, accents, names used including street names etc.) Last known direction of travel. Companions. Vehicles entered etc. The more information you can gather the better. Don't wait to call us. Every minute counts.

Family Violence For more info visit: <http://www.ywcacincinnati.org/>
<http://www.womenhelpingwomen.org/> <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/> <http://www.ohiodvnetwork.org/>

Family violence is the physical, emotional and/or psychological abuse of a partner, spouse, child (ren) or other family members. Any of these can be a victim or a perpetrator. It is not a private issue. It is a public issue and a crime. The residual effects of family violence exhausts a community's resources. Family violence jeopardizes a community's safety, health, welfare, and economic stability. What can you do? Report it and break the cycle of violence getting assistance to the victim's and the perpetrator. Why? It is proven that sons of the most violent parents are 100 times more likely to become batterers. Approximately 1/2 of all rapes and sexual assaults are committed by friends

and acquaintances, and 26% are by intimate partners. For more information contact the following agencies: National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233, Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center 1-888-448-4842, Hamilton County Domestic Violence Shelter Women Helping Women/YWCA Battered Women's Shelter 1-888-872-9259, Crisis Suicide Hotline 281-2273, Department of Human Services 241-KIDS (5437), Adult/Elder Abuse 421-LIFE(5433). You can also check out the websites listed above. Remember, you can make a difference and save lives.

Citizens with Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Disease is a neurological disorder. The primary symptoms are: memory loss; impaired judgment; inability to communicate; especially with encounters with Police. Some types of encounters include: wandering, auto accidents, indecent exposure, victimization, false reports, shoplifting, intoxication, and homicide/suicide cases. It is important that we protect our family members who suffer from this disease. What can you do? Contact the PD and make us aware of the situation and provide photo identification and habits and locations frequented to assist in locating

them if they do wander. Provide your family member with identification jewelry "memory impaired" type medic alert bracelet. Sew identification labels in their clothing. The Alzheimer's Association has a "Safe Return" Program which is a nationwide identification registry program which can be a valuable tool. For more information on the Safe Return Program call 1-800-572-1122 or contact the Alzheimer's Association for a local chapter at 1-800-441-3322. Let's keep our family members safe.

Crime Prevention Cont. peephole. Locks should be more than 40 inches away from the reach of door glass. Locks should be re-keyed after moving or after losing a key. Hinges on all outside doors should be pinned. Sliding glass doors can be secured with dowels or pins. Windows can be secured with locks and pins. Install a garage door opener. Install security alarms and stickers. House numbers must be large, reflective and lit up. Spare keys should not be left outside. **INTERIOR:** Security alarms and cameras can be installed on entrance doors. Valuables should be cataloged and marked. Emergency numbers are by all phones. Smoke detectors are present and operational. Notify police when away from home and practice good away from home procedures. Jewelry and other high value items should be secured. Keys should be controlled. Fire escape plans should be known and practiced. Know the location of gas, electric and water shut off valves. First aid kit and fire extinguishers are present and operational. Portable radio and flashlights are accessible for emergencies. If you need additional crime prevention and safety tips contact the PD Crime Prevention Officer Rodney Chatman and/or visit the following website: <http://www.npc.org>. We have additional links on our department website.

St. Bernard Police Department

4700 Vine Street
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217-1254

Phone 513-242-2727
Fax 513-482-7234

Anonymous Crime Tip Line
513-860-7233

Email: mail@stbernardpolice.org
Web: www.stbernardpolice.org

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Mission The mission of the St. Bernard Police Department is to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, to resolve problems among citizens, and to enhance public safety and quality of life through the delivery of fair and impartial police services. We can accomplish this mission best with your help. If you need us – Call us!!!!

ATM Fraud

There have been increasing reports of a nationwide scam involving the use of automatic teller machines (ATMs). The illegal practice involves thieves using a plastic sleeve that is inserted into the ATM card slot which holds the card until the thief retrieves it. This gives the customer the false impression that the card has not been returned. This action upsets the operation, allowing the thief, through observation, to determine the PIN and defraud the ATM after the customer has departed, believing they have lost their card. Other combinations of this scam include a person posing to be a Bank Employee asking for your PIN number to get the machine to

work and pretending that the machine is still broken they use your PIN number after you have gone. We have not been alerted to the practice occurring in the local area, however it is important to raise your awareness of the possibility. The plastic sleeve has tiny prongs which can be detected by running your fingers along the card slot before inserting a card. It is important to note that this scan can only be used on ATMs that have slots where cards must be inserted. It does not affect ATMs where cards are swiped. Practice the safe ATM procedures mentioned on page 1 under Holiday Safety Tips.

Homeland Security Advisory Guide

 For more info visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/>

The Homeland Security Office will identify priorities and coordinate efforts for collection and analysis of information within the United States regarding threats of terrorism against the United States and activities of terrorists or terrorist groups within the United States. The Homeland Security Advisory System is a means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and to the American people. The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector.

There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

- Low = Green;
- Guarded = Blue;
- Elevated = Yellow;
- High = Orange;
- Severe = Red.

The higher the Threat Condition, the greater the risk of a terrorist attack. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. Threat Conditions shall be assigned by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Except in exigent circumstances, the Attorney General shall seek the views of the appropriate Homeland Security Principals or their subordinates, and other parties as appropriate, on the Threat Condition to be assigned. Threat Conditions may be assigned for the entire Nation, or they may be set for a particular geographic area or industrial sector. Assigned Threat Conditions shall be reviewed at regular intervals to determine whether adjustments are warranted.