



Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Chief
Troy Appel

Captain
Kevin Flynn

Sergeants
Tim Gaul
Nathan Grimmus
Josh McCuen
Dustin Roemeling
Brett Wiltrout

Patrol Officers
Chris Hillesheim
Kirk Honius
Randy Liepold
Colin Meinders
Micah Mesman
Tyler Olson
Jacob Refsland
Mark Riley
Lucky Sayveo
Gabe Vander Veen
Jake Walker

Investigators
Shawn Elsing
Dave Hoffman
Joe Joswiak
Brandon Peil

School Resource
Dan Brouillet

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Holiday Fire Safety

Each year fires during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 Americans, injure 1,650 more, and cause almost \$1 billion in damages.

According to the United States Fire Administration, there are a few simple life saving tips you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

When you select your Christmas tree, make sure the tree is fresh by checking the trunk to see if it is sticky to the touch. You can also bounce the tree off the ground; if many needles fall off, then the tree has probably dried out and is a fire hazard.

When you bring your tree home, make sure it is kept away from heat sources that may dry out the tree and from open flames that may



cause the tree to catch on fire.

Don't leave the tree up for longer than two weeks and make sure the tree stand is always filled with water.

If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Maintain your holiday lights. Inspect them each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking. Use only

lights that have been approved by an approved testing laboratory.

Do not link more than three light strands unless the directions state it is safe to do so. Make sure to periodically check the wires to see if they are warm to the touch. If they are, unplug them immediately and stop using them.

Finally, never place wrapping paper in the fireplace. It can cause a large fire, throwing sparks which could cause a chimney fire.

Animal Control
Virgil Veen

Community Service
Myra Onnen

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

Dispatch Supervisor
Nancy Veen

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Evers
Hannah Huls
Jodi Mulder
Joe Reith

K-9 Officers
Frankee
Mack
Winston

Smoke Detectors

When daylight savings time ended on November 4th, did you change your smoke detector batteries?

Do you even have a smoke detector in your house?

For one Worthington family, working smoke detectors may have just saved their lives.

Woken up to a screeching smoke detector, the family found their house was filling with smoke one morning around 5 a.m.

The first family member quickly woke up the other family members and got them out of the house to safety.

While calling 911 to summon the fire

department, he went to investigate the cause of the smoke.

What he found was his refrigerator cord had become so hot, it burned through the cord and had started a fire behind the refrigerator.

After turning off the electricity to the electric outlet, he was able to put the fire out with water before the fire department arrived.

This was only possible because of the early warning of the smoke detector. The smoke detector allowed the home owner to respond because the fire was still small.

If the fire is too large or if you cannot put it out safely, it is highly



recommended to get out of the house and let the fire department take care of the fire.

Every home should have several Class A,B,C fire extinguishers in easy reach throughout the house.

Are you prepared for a fire emergency?

Don't be one of the estimated 3,000 people who will die from house fires this year!

DON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH

Text confidential tips to the

Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force

100% Anonymous



BRDTF Tips available on Apple and Android devices

Law Review: Snow and Ice on Public Sidewalks

There is no doubt that winter has arrived! With winter's arrival comes the requirement that home owners and tenants are required to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks abutting their property within 12 hours after the snow and ice has ceased to be deposited.

The City of Worthington has declared that snow and ice remaining on the public sidewalks is a public nuisance and failure to clean them will result in the city cleaning the sidewalk and assessing the cost onto the property taxes.



If you have watched the news recently, you may have heard about a relatively new type of criminal that has emerged; the dreaded porch pirate.

Instead of prowling the high seas in search of booty to plunder, the porch pirate prowls our streets and neighborhoods looking for unattended packages to steal.

They will steal packages right off the front steps and porches of our homes.

It is also not uncommon for porch pirates to follow around delivery drivers and steal packages right after they have been delivered.

With the increasing popularity of online

shopping, these types of thefts also increase.

But not all is lost; there are ways to protect yourself and your packages from falling victim.

Both FedEx and UPS have apps that allow you to reschedule and reroute packages in real time to ensure that someone is home when the package is delivered. If you are not home, you could have the package delivered to your workplace or to a trusted neighbor.

The US Postal Service has various methods for secure delivery, including signature service which requires the recipient's signature at time of delivery.

Having trusted neighbors that can pick up your packages can be invaluable to protect yourself and your packages.

A little planning can go a long way toward protecting yourself from falling victim to these crimes.

If you see suspicious activity call the



Worthington Police Department at 507-295-5400 with a description of the activity and those involved.



Ask an Officer: Is it Illegal to Leave Vehicles Running?

Is it illegal to leave your vehicle running to warm it up?

While many cities do make it illegal to leave your vehicle running to warm it up; Worthington does not. In addition, there is no state law that makes it illegal either.

While it is not illegal, leaving your vehicle running makes it a target for thieves.

Each year the police department takes stolen vehicle reports that start off with the owner leaving it to warm up only to come back to find their car gone.

It is recommended that you never leave your car unattended while it is running.

Consider purchasing a remote car starter since most vehicles have built-in features that prevent the car from being driven without the keys being in the ignition.

In addition, don't leave valuables in plain sight. Place any valuables you leave in your car in the trunk or other secure location.

Do I need to completely clear my windshield of snow and ice before driving it?

Minnesota State Statute 169.71 states "No person shall drive any motor vehicle with the windshield or front side windows covered with steam or frost to such an extent as to prevent proper vision".

Proper vision would include having your windshield and side windows completely clear of snow and ice, so you can see the road and any potential hazards.

Winter driving is tough enough in the best of conditions, no need to make it harder or more dangerous by failing to clear your windshield.

Do you have a question for a police officer, but never had the chance to ask?

Here is your chance! Each month, one question will be selected and answered in this newsletter

Send your comments and questions to:

chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us

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Animal Control

(507) 360-7044

Community Service Officer

(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ci.worthington.mn.us

Humor in Law Enforcement

Wouldn't it be nice if criminals would call first to make arrangements with their victims about the crime they are about to commit!

For two Fairfield, Connecticut men, that sounded like a good idea and just good manners.

One of the men called a local bank and told them they would be stopping by to rob the bank and requested they have one-hundred thousand dollars ready for them

to pick up or else there would be a "bloodbath".

The bank employees were highly appreciative of the advanced notice they were going to be robbed and started the lockdown procedure while waiting for the police to arrive.

One of the robbers walked up to the teller and said he was there to pick up the money.

To the surprise of no one, other than the robbers, there were



promptly arrested.

It is nice to see that in today's day and age that good manners still exist.

Mission Statement

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity
by working WITH the community
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1530 AIRPORT ROAD
SUITE 300
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**