



## Community Watch Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 4

September 2018

### Our Mission

The mission of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office Community Watch Program is to proactively partner with law abiding citizens to prevent and reduce crime. This will be accomplished through communication, crime prevention education and assisting communities, neighborhoods and businesses in achieving a safe environment for its residents.

Thank you for stepping up in your area of Bonner County and taking a leadership position in your local community watch group.

### Winter Driving Tips

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for automobile travel. Motorists should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies.

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Ensure your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather as the emergency brake cable can become frozen and fail to release when the lever is disengaged.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look & steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

### Tips for long-distance winter trips:

- Watch weather reports prior to a long-distance drive or before driving in isolated areas. Delay trips when especially bad weather is expected. If you must leave, let

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Our Mission
- 1 Winter Driving Tips (pages 1,3,4)
- 2 Pets in Hot Vehicles
- 2 Watch Captain Questions and Answers
- 3 Fall Cleanup – Think Home Security
- 4 Humor in Uniform

*continued on page 3*

## Pets in Hot Vehicles

Even though fall is approaching, the weather still remains warm. If you see a dog/cat in a locked or unlocked car in the summer heat, you should note that, even if it's 70 degrees outside, the inside of the vehicle can reach over 110 degrees within minutes.

Temperatures go higher as minutes go by.

Leaving windows cracked open in a vehicle does not eliminate the danger of heatstroke, brain damage or death to the animal.

If there are businesses nearby, notify their managers or security guards and ask them to make an announcement to find the car's owner. Many people are unaware of the danger of leaving pets in hot cars and will quickly return to their vehicle once they are alerted to the situation.

You should call the BCSO dispatch at 208-265-5523 and give a description of the car, license number, location and description of the animal.

If the owner appears, do not be confrontational or interfere, as you could be held liable (example: breaking the vehicle window to free the animal). If possible, stay at the scene until the deputy arrives. If the owner of the dog leaves before the deputy arrives, give the information you have to the deputy.



## Watch Captains Questions and Answers

This newsletter is as much yours as it is that of the Community Watch Program. As such, we want to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues you may have. The questions will remain anonymous, but the issues and discussion will be an important part of our communication and education process.

Call or email your question to Sheryl Kins at [sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov](mailto:sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov). It will then become part of the next newsletter.

**Question:** I understand that on July 1, 2018 legislation was passed changing the law on Trespassing and Malicious Injuries to Property. With the upcoming hunting season how does this impact hunters and landowners?

**Answer:** The Bonner County Sheriff's Office recently was contacted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The new law directs IDFG to make permission forms for private land access available in the sheriff's office in each county in the state.

The law does not limit permission to a written form. It allows for other forms of permission or invitation recognized by law. This does allow landowners to give verbal permission. IDFG outreach to hunters, anglers and trappers will strongly encourage "Ask first for written permission".

Noted below is an example of the IDFG Permission Form.

**Permission Form**  
Landowner Copy

Permission given to (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Description (license plate optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dates permission is valid:  
from: \_\_\_\_\_  
to: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description of Property:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Fall Cleanup - Think Home Security

While you are preparing your home and property for winter and you happen to be outside, take some extra time to store away any extra tools that have been left out, make sure your outside lights are working, trim back bushes and trees for visibility on your property from potential criminals and check window screens to see if they are in need of repair.

Remember that most property crimes are crimes of opportunity; criminals love to take advantage of our tendency to keep our property unsecured.



others know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival.

- Always make sure your vehicle is in peak operating condition.
- Pack a cellular telephone, plus blankets, gloves, hats, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. Your vehicle will provide temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment with the engine running.
- If possible run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and to conserve gasoline.

### Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry, and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember, it takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

## Humor in Uniform

A man was driving down the road when a policeman stopped him. The officer looked in the back of the man's truck and said, "Why are these penguins in your truck?"

The man replied, "These are my penguins. They belong to me."

"You need to take them to the zoo," the policeman said.

The next day, the officer saw the same guy driving down the road. He pulled him over again. He saw the penguins were still in the truck, but they were wearing sunglasses this time. "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo!" the officer said.

"I did," the man replied. "And today I'm taking them to the beach."

## He Wants a Rematch

The police just pulled me over; he came up to my window and said, "Papers?"  
I replied, "Scissors, I win" and drove off.

I think he wants a re-match because he's been following me for 45 minutes.



- Drive slowly; everything takes longer on snow-covered roads.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.



**Last Page for Notes**