

## Crime Bulletin December 16-31, 2009

December is:

# National 3D Month

December is **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D Month)**. Every year, many people are injured or killed in traffic-related accidents that involve alcohol and drugs. These tragic accidents are PREVENTABLE.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asks you to consider what you can do to lessen the injuries and deaths that result from impaired driving.

Suggestions include **having a zero tolerance policy for drinking and driving...**that means you promise yourself that if you drink, you will NOT drive.

**Always say no to illegal drugs.** Don't get behind the wheel after taking prescription drugs that can impair your ability to drive safely.

One key to prevention is to **plan ahead**. Have a designated driver. Ask him or her to take away your keys if you drink. If you notice someone else drinking, take away his or her keys.

If you host a party, **have non-alcoholic beverages and food available**. Remind your guests to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, don't let anyone leave who is planning to drive home after drinking, and NEVER serve alcohol to minors. If there are going to be minors present, you might consider not serving alcohol at all.

If you notice someone driving (including a motorcyclist) who seems impaired, call 911 immediately and keep your distance from them.

**Buckle up. Drive only if sober. Protect your loved ones...and have a safe 2010!**

Source: [www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Impaired\\_Driving/3d.html](http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Impaired_Driving/3d.html)

**Are your kids on break from school??**

**See page 2 for tips on keeping them safe...**



## Kid Safety Tips

The kids are on winter break from school...and you're probably getting the usual complaints of "there's nothing to do"...or "why can't I...everyone else gets to" going on in your home.

Keeping our kids safe is one of the most important things we do, no matter what role we play in their lives. When there's more unstructured time, they're more likely to encounter situations that can lead to trouble. "Child proof" your home this season for the older kids, as well as the younger ones.

### Suggestions include:

- **Supervise time on the computer** and set clear rules about the types of sites your children can visit. Teach them to never put their full names, addresses, phone numbers and other personal information out on the Internet. None of us really know who is on the other side of the keyboard...and there really are people out there who pose a threat to children.
- **Don't leave children unattended** until they are truly mature enough. This is sometimes hard when the kids are home, but the adults still have to work. Plan ahead for childcare for these breaks from school.
- **Teach safety rules** about using electronics, including the microwave, stove, toaster, hair dryers, flat irons, curling irons, and anything else that can pose a danger. Set rules about using these only when an adult is around.
- **Be sure holiday gifts are child proof.** Immediately pick up any small pieces (including from packaging decorations) to ward off choking and poison hazards.
- **Post a list of emergency numbers** for babysitters and older kids who can stay home alone. Be sure to write your home address and phone number on it so a child/sitter can read it out loud to a 911 operator should there be an emergency.
- **Keep ALL medications** - prescriptions and over-the-counter - well out of the reach of children. Consider getting a lock box for these to avoid any potential problems.
- **Have food ready** (sandwiches, *Lunchables*, etc.) that doesn't need to be heated up for older kids home alone.
- **Small batteries** (such as those from watches and other electronics) pose a large, potentially lethal risk for children. They can cause burns throughout the body once ingested.
- **Teach children to NEVER open the door for a stranger.** Ask them not to answer the phone when you are away unless they know who is calling...and even then, they should not tell the caller they are home alone—they can politely take a message for you and say you will return the call soon.
- **Keep all doors and windows locked.** Leave lights on around the home, both inside and outside.
- **Be sure there are working smoke detectors** on each level of your home.
- **If you are out, call and check on your child(ren) often.** If you are running late, let them know. Be sure they know how to reach you.
- **Keep your children safe by providing them with structured activities and monitoring their friendships.** Provide games, hobby, books and other activities around the home; plan community outings and other fun times together. If they go to a friends' home, be sure you know that an adult will be around and set a precise time for them to be home.





## 'Tis the Season for Break-Ins

There are many things we can do to help lessen the possibility of having our homes broken into this time of year.

### Suggestions include:

- **Don't advertise your holiday gifts to the neighborhood.**  
What does this mean?
  1. Don't stack gifts under your lit Christmas tree in front of windows where people can look in and see.
  2. Don't put empty boxes from new big screen TVs, Wiis, and other expensive items out on the curb for trash pickup. Cut them into small pieces and put them in trash bags.
  3. Don't tell your friends on Facebook, MySpace, etc. about the great gifts you've gotten this year (you may be advertising to someone who isn't really your friend).
- **Keep lights on when it's dark out...both inside and outside. Put them on a timer if you get home late from work, are traveling, etc.**
- **Don't let strangers in...no matter what the story may be. Offer to call 911 for someone who says they're in a crisis.**
- **Call the police if you see suspicious activity, including someone driving slowly around the neighborhood, someone at a neighbor's home when they are not home, etc.**
- **Don't tell everyone you'll be out of town...never post travel details on social networking spaces like Facebook, personal Blogs, etc.**
- **Do let the Police know if you'll be out of town by filling out a House Check program. Fill it out in the office during business hours; you can download it ahead of time at:**  
  
[www.merriam.org/MPD/Community-Policing/documents/HouseCheck.pdf](http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Community-Policing/documents/HouseCheck.pdf)
- **Prevent a tragedy by keeping your doors locked when you are at home, as well as away from home. It is vital to keep garages locked as well. Many illegal entries are made through garage doors that connect to homes. Burglars may not always care if someone is home or not.**
- **Don't leave wallets and purses near any doors. They are too easy to see through windows and doors.**
- **Be sure your kids follow the same safety advise that you do...getting everyone on the same page will increase safety for all.**

## Women's Self Defense Seminar

### "Avoiding & Surviving a Violent Encounter"

The Merriam Police Department is offering a Women's Self Defense seminar on Saturday, February 27, from 1-3pm. The seminar is free, but pre-registration is required (call Merriam Parks & Rec. at 913-322-5550). Attendees should dress in comfortable clothing with little jewelry on if they plan on participating in the physical portion of the seminar. Sign up with your family, friends and co-workers!



# Crime Statistics

## From December 1 - 15, 2009

### **Warrant Arrests:** 35

### **DUI Arrests:**

- 88th & Johnson Drive
- Johnson Drive & I-35
- 63rd Terrace & Carter
- 74th & I-35

### **Auto Accidents:**

- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- 75th Street & I-35
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- 73rd & I-35
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- 67th Street & I-35
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Eby
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Eby
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- Johnson Drive and Woodward
- 67th Street & I-35
- 75th Street & Antioch
- 55th & Hayes
- 75th & Grandview

### **Non-injury Hit and Run:**

- 87th & Shawnee Mission Pkwy

### **Residential Burglary:**

- 10000th & W. 51st Street
- 87th & W. 70th Terrace
- 49th & Farley
- 48th & Wedd
- 73rd & Brittany

\*\* 3 suspects were arrested in Merriam on December 9th for alleged involvement in several residential burglaries in the Mission and Merriam areas. \*\*

**Crime Tip: If you see suspicious activity...please call 911 immediately.**

### **Business Burglary:**

- 61st & Merriam Drive
- 55th & Merriam

### **Business Theft:**

- 68th & E. Frontage Road
- 58th & Antioch

### **Theft:**

- 10000 & W. 75th
- 61st & Merriam Drive
- 84th & W. 55th Street
- 73rd & King's Cove Drive
- 83rd & Shawnee Mission Pkwy

### **Aggravated Burglary:**

- 97th & W. 49th Terrace
- 73rd & Brittany

### **Aggravated Robbery:**

- 72nd & Mastin

### **Auto Burglary:**

- 57th & Antioch
- 61st & Merriam Lane
- 88th & W. 66th Terrace
- 55th & Antioch
- 58th & Antioch
- 88th & W. 71st Street

### **Auto Theft:**

- 66th & E. Frontage Road (later recovered in Kansas City, Kansas)

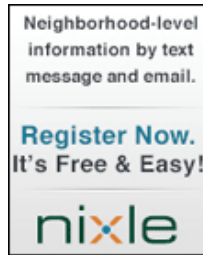
### **Criminal Use of Financial Info:** 2

### **Criminal Damage:** 1

### **Telephone Harassment:** 1

### **Possession of Controlled Substance:**

- 95th & W. 67th
- I-35 & Antioch



The Merriam Police Department is trying to contact you...not because you're in trouble, but because there are times when something important is going on in the Merriam community that you need to know about as soon as possible.

It's free and it's easy to sign up for "Nixle", the service that lets you get these important news via text messages & emails. Sign up now at:

**<http://local.nixle.com/register/>**

Whether you work, live, go to school, hang out with friends, shop, dine, or have family and friends in Merriam...Nixle is for you. **Don't receive today's pressing news tomorrow!**

## Why a Crime Bulletin?

**The Merriam Police Department operates under the "Community Policing Philosophy"...**

This means we are committed to providing the highest quality of police services by partnering with you - the citizens of our community. Together, we work as a team to maintain a high quality of living in Merriam, keeping it a safe place to be. This crime bulletin lets us share information with you, helping us reach these goals. We hope you forward this to others who will find it interesting and useful!

The Police Department asks you to report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1. Go to:

<http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Patrol/report-a-crime.htm> for ways to report non-emergency crimes.

**“He who profits by a crime commits it”**



9010 W. 62nd Street  
 Merriam, Kansas 66202  
 Station: 913.322.5560  
 Dispatch: 913.782.0720  
 Emergency: 911  
[police@merriam.org](mailto:police@merriam.org)

Station Hours:  
 Mon. - 8AM to 6PM  
 Tues. thru Fri. - 7AM to 9PM  
 Sat. - 10AM to 6PM  
 Sun. - CLOSED

**Prepared by Suzette Mack**