



Monthly Crime Tips

October is Crime Prevention Month

During Crime Prevention Month, law enforcement, community groups, and citizens across our nation come together to create stronger partnerships and safer streets! One of the best ways to stay safe, is to prevent crime by planning ahead.

Fall is here and the days are getting shorter. Use **good lighting** around your home to keep you safe. Turn on porch lights, install motion detector lights, and put lights on timers (both inside and outside if possible). If you get home from your daily activities after dark, put the lights on before you leave.

Keeping our **trick-or-treaters** safe on Halloween weekend is of utmost importance.

Recommended safety tips include:

- Wear brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and have trick-or-treaters carry glow sticks and flashlights
- Trick-or-Treat in groups (younger kids, with adults)
- Don't approach homes that are not lit up, or where dogs are barking; stay in well-lit areas
- Never enter a stranger's home or car
- Have children eat before they leave home and ask them not to eat treats until they are home; never eat unwrapped treats
- Instruct your children to use a cell phone to call home, or to go to a trusted neighbor's home immediately if they feel threatened or in danger
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch to help keep an eye on your community
- Keep your own pets inside for Halloween

For more safety tips and info. about Crime Prevention Month, see www.ncpc.org.

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.

Help Needed:

Merriam has recently been "tagged" by two graffiti artists...one goes by the tag "**Antik**" and the other by "**Renue**". Any information that can help us locate these taggers will be greatly appreciated.

Information regarding a recent burglary at Old Navy at Town Center in Merriam early on the morning of October 6 is needed.

If you know of any information that would solve these crimes, please contact the Police today.

Crimes to Watch for in October:

Property Crimes:

Halloween can be lots of fun...but watch out for tricksters smashing pumpkins/holiday decorations and any other property damage. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to the police.

Suspicious Activity Around Children:

Strangers should not be driving, biking, or walking around our community asking children for directions, or other types of questions one should ask of an adult. Nor should they be slowing down to have a "friendly chat" with our children. Remind your children not to talk with strangers. Rehearse potential incidents with them, having them problem solve what they would do if approached inappropriately (run to the nearest neighbor's home they know, never get in a stranger's vehicle, call 911 on their cell phone, etc.). Also, keep your children safe by teaching them not to play, bike, walk (etc.) alone. Ask them to **always** tell an adult about anything suspicious they encounter.

New Drug Posing Problems:

A new type of drug called "K2" has made its way to Johnson County. K2 is made of herbal incense and commonly smoked in a drug pipe or bong. K2 is sold in four varieties; the most popular are K2 Blonde and K2 Summit. It sells for \$25 for a 3 ounce package and is gaining tremendous popularity among teens in Johnson County. Juvenile

probation officers report an increase in abnormal drug screens, which they attribute to K2 usage. A recent Internet post by a K2 user states that the drug produces a high 10x that of marijuana, and that he "couldn't move for an hour".

It is important to note that even though K2 is legal, a driver impaired from using it can still be arrested, similar to someone under the influence of prescribed or over-the-counter medication.



Crime Statistics October 1st to 15th

Warrant Arrests: 34

Theft Reports: 10

DUI Arrests:

- 75th and Switzer
- 9800 Block of Johnson Drive
- 9900 Block of W. 75th Street
- 55th and Merriam Drive
- 75th and E. Frontage Road
- Johnson Drive and Slater

Criminal Damage to Autos:

- 68th and Antioch
- Similar damage was done to 2 autos at 6400 E. Frontage Road on October 3 and 12; please contact the police if you have any information regarding these crimes

Burglary to Autos:

- 5100 Block of Perry Lane

Reminder: A good deterrent to auto burglaries is to keep your autos locked ...even in your driveways and garages. Keep personal property out of your autos. Don't leave purses, cell phones, and other valuables laying out in the open (even if you plan on being gone for "just a moment" from your vehicle). Never keep your garage door opener in your car. There have been several home break-ins in Johnson County recently in which the criminal took the garage door opener out of the resident's auto, and then used it to access their home.

Auto Accidents:

- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Antioch (3)
- 58th & Blackhoof
- 62nd Terrace & Slater
- 93rd Block of W. 74th Street
- Johnson Drive & I-35
- E Frontage Road @ Eby
- 67th & E. Frontage Road
- 87th Block of W. 65th Street
- 7200 Block, Northbound I-35
- W. 75th Street & Kings Cove Dr.
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Hardy

Safe Driving Tips:

Please be sure to wear your seat belts, use lane change signals, and abide by the speed limits.

Traffic Enforcement

Thanksgiving S.T.E.P. Program

The Merriam Police Department will be participating in the Thanksgiving S.T.E.P. enforcement program. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling the city for DUI and seatbelt violations.

The program will have extra officers on duty from November 23-29.

So, to avoid meeting these officers, please don't drink and drive...and always wear your seatbelt.



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

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