

## MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jason Myers, Sheriff  
www.co.marion.or.us/so

**PORCH LIGHT**  
CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER  
June • 2010

**EMERGENCY**  
9•1•1

**NON-EMERGENCY**  
503.588.5032

**DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE**  
503.588.5112

**GRAFFITI HOTLINE**  
503.566.6955

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
503.588.7981

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**  
503.589.3250


**NEWS RELEASES**  
[www.co.marion.or.us/so](http://www.co.marion.or.us/so)



## VOLUNTEERS INSPECT BOATS

As the weather warms and Detroit Lake's water level rises, Marion County Sheriff's Office volunteers swing into action with offering free Boat Safety Inspections. Their annual inspection efforts benefit both the boating public and our Marine Patrol deputies. The Oregon State Marine Board sanctioned inspections ensure that both the boat and its captain have met the necessary safety requirements. Vessels are issued stickers annually, indicating a successful inspection for that boating year. With trained volunteers conducting these inspections, deputies are freed up to concentrate their efforts on patrolling the waters, and when encountering a vessel with a current year's sticker, they can be assured it has met the required safety standards. Boats without stickers that are stopped by deputies patrolling the waters could be subject to citation if found not in compliance with Oregon State Marine Laws. The fifteen minute, free Boat Inspection would have identified the issue, prevented the owner from being fined and even potentially save a life.



Boat Inspections are conducted throughout the boating season at the State Park and Detroit Lake's Mongold Ramp and Kane's and Detroit Marinas. In preparation for boating to begin, we also conduct inspections at various *in-town* locations. Check the **Events Calendar** on our website for scheduled Boat Inspection dates, time and locations. 

### APPROVED BOATS WILL HAVE PROPER...

- Oregon Boater Education Card.
- Personal floatation devices.
- Navigation lights.
- Sound producing device.
- Correct fire extinguisher.
- Flame Arrestor.
- Clean ventilation.
- HIN displayed on vessel.
- Identifying numbers or boat registration and current decal.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Permit

*Interested in joining the Volunteer Team?*

A variety of opportunities are available. For more information, contact **Doc Nelson** at: 503.589.3250

## Mark your calendars for National Night Out!

*Tuesday, August 3rd is the big day! Gather your neighbors for a show of solidarity in taking back our neighborhoods. Help send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!* It is not too early to start planning! Additional information and our

**VISIT REQUEST FORM** to invite a deputy to attend your 2010 National Night Out celebration are on our website. For additional information: 503.588.7981



## A Message from Sheriff Jason Myers

As the weather heats up, school lets out and vacationers take to the roads, I take this opportunity to emphasize driving safely. The Marion County Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Team operates throughout the year, but becomes particularly important as the volume of traffic increases during the summer months.

The *Aggressive Driving Program*, which includes two Ford Mustangs, is part of our Traffic Safety Team. These unmarked vehicles allow deputies to monitor driver behavior, often viewing multiple violations in succession by the driver, and then take corrective action.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines aggressive driving as, "when individuals commit a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property." NHTSA reports that running a red light is the most dangerous form of aggressive driving. Other behaviors typically associated with aggressive driving include: exceeding the posted speed limit, following too closely, erratic or unsafe lane changes, improperly signaling lane changes, and failure to obey traffic control devices. Working collaboratively with Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Police and local law enforcement agencies the Traffic Safety Team utilizes the *3-E's* principals: **Enforcement, Education & Engineering**. Partnering with educational programs in the community, working with Marion County Public Works Department to improve roadway design and signage, while identifying aggressive drivers and enforcing Oregon State law, our Traffic Safety Team diligently works to keep the Marion County roadways safe for all.

Wishing all a fun and *safe* summer,  
Jason Myers, Sheriff



## BOATERS URGED TO THINK ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Ashley Massey Oregon State Marine Board

When the gorgeous weather arrives, there is no better time to take to the waterways for a cool respite from the heat. But as one family member found out, it's not only important to be properly equipped, but it is also important to **turn your boat motor off** whenever passengers are swimming near a boat's back end.


In July, 2009, a family was out enjoying a day of boating on the Columbia River near Fairview, with an occasionally dip in the water. According to Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the son had been swimming near the back of the boat while the boat's motor was idling. After being in the same location for a while,

the family decided it was time to move the boat and found their son was face down in the water, not breathing, but afloat because he was wearing his life jacket. Family members were able to pull him into the boat, and as they were transiting for shore, the boy suddenly started breathing again. The boy was taken to Providence Medical Center



where he was placed in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, and fortunately began recovering.

In 2005, the Oregon legislature passed Senate Bill 56, prohibiting a person from operating a motorboat (or idling the engine) while any person holds onto or occupies any portion of the boat aft of the transom. It is important to remember that it is possible to be poisoned by carbon monoxide while swimming in the vicinity of the swim platform, as this family's close-call demonstrates. Boaters should never have the motor running when anyone is in the water, including when picking up skiers or persons on other towed devices. Another obvious danger is the swimmer's proximity to the boat propeller.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and depletes the body of oxygen. The first symptoms include headache, nausea and light-headedness. If you or any of your passengers have any of these symptoms, change your course or take other action to improve ventilation. 

MARION COUNTY CODE 8.25

## NEW GUIDELINES FOR ALARM USERS



QUESTIONS

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
ALARMS COORDINATOR  
503.588.7981  
jpaul@co.marion.or.us

Previous to the adoption of *Code 8.25-Alarms*, Marion County required users of security alarms to obtain an alarm permit and that permit only expired if the user moved. October 1, 2009, the new code went into effect, substantially changing the administration of alarm permits.

With the dramatic increase in the number of residents installing alarm systems, so too has the false alarm rate risen. This new code was established to help prevent unnecessary Sheriff's emergency responses, thereby protecting the county's emergency response capability from misuse. The initial two-year permit fee is \$40 with a renewal fee of \$20 for each subsequent two-year period. (Both of these fees allow a \$10 discount for early application.) The new code allows users two false alarms per calendar year at no charge. The third false alarm event generates a \$50.00 fine and the fourth and subsequent events, a fine of \$250.00. In actuality, the majority of alarm users operate their systems very responsibly. It is the rare user who does not

remedy the cause of their false alarms and allows their fines to rise to the highest level.

Who needs a permit? Not everyone who lives in Marion County. Residences located **within city limits** of jurisdictions that have their own police departments, do not need a Marion County Alarm Permit. These alarm users should contact their appropriate city officials regarding that region's required permits. Because mailing addresses do not define if one lives within city limits, persons who are not sure if they need an Alarm Permit are invited to contact our Alarms Coordinator for a definitive answer.

*"I can't remember if I ever applied for an alarm permit."* Call the Alarm Coordinator to verify your account. Both the **Alarm Permit Application** and a copy of **Code 8.25** and are available on our website.

## CELL PHONES, STUDENTS & PERSONAL SAFETY

In 2009, it was estimated that there were more than 270 million wireless subscribers in the United States — in other words, that 87 percent of Americans had wireless devices that could be used for voice calls and/or texting. Cell phone callers also make more than 300,000 emergency 9-1-1 calls per day. A 2007 study among college students showed that they are changing their behavior because they carry and use cell phones. While carrying cell phones presents definite benefits, people are encouraged to practice common sense wherever you are.

Researchers found that students felt safer when they carry a cell phone. It also revealed that, especially female, students go places they ordinarily would not go, when they have a cell phone with them and that females engage in more risk-taking behavior when they carry a cell phone. Although this study focused on the habits of college students, it is not unreasonable to speculate that a large percentage of young people may also fall prey to this false sense of security when carrying cell phones.



### Cell Phone SAFETY TIPS for STUDENTS

- Don't give in to a false sense of security just because you have a cell phone.
- Take a friend with you when you go out, especially at night.
- Always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to come back.
- Stick to well-lighted locations.
- Don't go anywhere with someone you've just met.

### Marion County Sheriff's Office Press Releases Available On-Line

No need to wait for your morning newspaper! Get the latest information about the Marion County Sheriff's Office direct from our Public Information Officer: Don Thomson.

We invite you to subscribe to receive the Sheriff's Office news releases via email by visiting:

<http://www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=1294>