

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
NOVEMBER 24, 2018**

**PROTECT YOUR ONLINE PURCHASES FROM ‘PORCH PIRATES’**

It is the most wonderful time of the year and online shopping has become extremely popular due to ease and convenience...until your package gets stolen from your front porch!

During this holiday season, don't fall victim to Porch Pirates...they “RRRRRR” out there and waiting to steal your package! Below are a few tips to ensure your package gets to you safely:

- Obtain a tracking number and schedule delivery on a day you will be home if you can. This way you can see real time the status of your delivery.
- Choose the option that requires a signature for the delivery. This will ensure the package won't be left at your door without you there to sign and bring it safely inside.
- Provide special instructions for where you want your package left. Maybe a back door or inside a side garage door is best.
- Have your packages delivered to a trustworthy neighbor or your place of work (if allowed).

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**DECEMBER 1, 2018**

**ANIMAL SHELTERING**

To help your pets remain happy and healthy during these colder months, you should not assume that a cat or dog's "fur coat" is sufficient protection. Dogs and cats should never be left outside for long periods of time without proper shelter and supervision.

If your dog is an outdoor dog:

- It needs protection by a dry, draft-free dog shelter that is large enough to allow the dog to sit or lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold its body heat.
- The floor should be raised off the ground a few inches and covered with cedar shavings or straw. (Rugs or rags should not be used because they hold moisture.)
- The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with heavy burlap or a rug.
- If snow or salt collects between the dog's toes, it should be removed to prevent injury.
- Always make sure your dog is given fresh drinkable water daily, as your pet will burn valuable body heat if it has to eat snow and ice because it is thirsty.

If you see or suspect animal abuse/neglect, please contact the dispatch center at 387-4394.

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**DECEMBER 8, 2018**

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AND WELFARE CHECKS**

The Marshfield Police Department prides itself on serving the Marshfield community. One of the ways we are frequently called upon to do this is through welfare checks. Around the holidays, our calls for welfare checks often increase as individuals are experiencing additional stressors in their lives. A welfare check is a response by law enforcement to check on the safety and well-being of an individual after a concern is presented to our agency or dispatch who may be in some type of crisis. Often times, welfare checks specifically involve a concern for an individual’s mental well-being.

Officers serve as first responders to welfare checks and their goal is to maintain the safety of everyone involved and to gather all of the appropriate information. The officers talk with the individual in crisis and their family or friends. Then officers consult with mental health providers and hospital emergency services to determine the best course of action to help the individual experiencing a mental health crisis be safe and connect to any resources and services from which they may benefit.

On occasion, mental health crises involve individuals who are expressing suicidal thoughts and plans and you can be a vital part of getting these individuals assistance. The best way to prevent a suicide is to recognize the warning signs and know how to respond when you recognize them. If you believe that someone you know is suicidal, you can help by simply showing that you care and activating the process to help get them relief.

**Common suicide risk factors include:**

- Mental illness
- Alcoholism or drug abuse
- Previous suicide attempts
- Family history of suicide
- Terminal illness or chronic pain
- Recent loss or stressful life event
- Social isolation and loneliness
- History of trauma or abuse
- Victim of bullying

**Suicide prevention tips:**

- Speak up if you are worried
- Respond quickly in a crisis
- Offer help and support

If you or someone you care about is contemplating suicide, there are many resources out there to get you help. Here are some options:

- In an emergency dial 911
- Wood County Crisis Intervention 715-384-5555 or 715-421-2345
- United Way’s First Call dial 211
- The 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK.
- [www.preventsuicidewi.org](http://www.preventsuicidewi.org)
- Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1
- <https://activeheroes.org/get-help/>

## **MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
DECEMBER 15, 2018**

### **RESPONSIBLE DRINKING**

During the holidays, if you choose to drink, be responsible. Two out of five people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. If you have had too much to drink, coffee or cold showers won't sober you up. Only TIME can do that. To protect yourself and others, control your drinking by using the following tips:

- Eat to slow alcohol's effects. Avoid carbonated drinks—they speed up the effects.
- Alternate alcohol with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Alcohol is alcohol, no matter what form. A 12-ounce beer has as much alcohol as a 5-ounce glass of wine (12% alcohol) or a 1-1/2 ounce shot of hard liquor (80 proof).
- If you drink, don't drive.
- Have a sober designated driver.
- Use a taxi by calling Running Inc. at 715-384-0500.

Use common sense when drinking. An evening's celebration is not worth the risk of injury or a costly drunken driving arrest.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

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**DECEMBER 22, 2018**

**511: ROAD REPORT/TRAVEL CONDITIONS**

Dialing 511 using your landline and cell phone, provides you with free real-time road report and travel conditions. You can also access the 511 internet site at: [www.511wi.gov/](http://www.511wi.gov/). *By registering online with 511, you can receive personalized road condition reports.*

Below is a listing of other free three-digit resource numbers offered that you may want to keep posted next to your phone or on your cell phone directory.

- 211 United Way's Information Resource & Referral
- 411 Telephone – Directory Assistance
- 511 Road Report/Travel Conditions
- 711 Wisconsin Relay Text Telephone (deaf to speech)
- 811 Digger's Hotline
- 911 Emergency – Police, Fire & EMS

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**DECEMBER 29, 2018**

**TOBACCO LAWS/E-CIGARETTES**

Wisconsin State Statute prohibits the purchase or possession of cigarettes or tobacco products by a person under the age of 18. No person under 18 may falsely represent his or her age for the purpose of receiving any cigarette, nicotine, or tobacco product. No person may purchase cigarettes, tobacco products, or nicotine products on behalf of, or to provide to, any person who is under the age of 18. Persons violating these laws may be subject to a monetary forfeiture. A law enforcement officer shall seize any cigarette, nicotine product, or tobacco product that has been sold to or is in the possession of a person under 18.

- A “cigarette” means any roll of tobacco wrapped in paper or any other substance other than tobacco
- A “nicotine product” is any product that contains nicotine, including electronic cigarettes or vapes (brands include, but are not limited to JUUL, Smok, Blu, etc.).
- A “tobacco product” means cigars and other smoking tobacco, snuff and other chewing tobaccos, and any form of tobacco prepared in such a manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or otherwise.

Smoking is prohibited in the following enclosed places:

- Education facilities
- Residence halls or dormitories owned or operated by a college or university
- Child care centers
- Inpatient health care facilities
- Theaters
- Correctional facilities
- State institutions
- Restaurants
- Taverns
- Private clubs
- Retail establishments
- Common areas of multiple-unit residential properties
- Lodging establishments
- State, county, city, village or town buildings
- A sports arena
- A bus shelter
- A public conveyance

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens and young adults, as most e-cigarette and vaping products contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development. E-cigarettes also contain other harmful substances besides nicotine, such as ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into lungs, flavoring such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease, volatile organic compounds, cancer-causing chemicals, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead. It is difficult for consumers to know what e-cigarette products actually contain. For example, some e-cigarettes marketed as containing zero percent nicotine have been found to contain nicotine.

For more information on the harmful effects of e-cigarettes, visit:

- [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm)
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobaccoischanging/index.htm>
- [Teen.smokefree.gov](http://Teen.smokefree.gov) and
- [E-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov](http://E-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov)