

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

February 2010

New Illinois Laws for 2010

As of January 1st, 2010, a number of new laws took effect that citizens should be aware of. The biggest change involves driving through school zones and talking on a cell phone. As of January 1st, it is illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving through a school zone or a construction zone. The law states that if a vehicle



is moving in these areas, the driver must not be talking on a cell phone, except in cases where a "hands-free" device is being used. A hands-free device is any device, such as a Bluetooth, where the driver does not have to hold onto the phone with his or her hands. This eliminates the unsafe practice of driving with one hand as well as limiting the distraction. It is important to note that if a parent or student is in the parking lot and parked, it is legal to be on the phone without a hands free device. Once the vehicle is moving, the law goes into effect. The Illinois State

Police believe that 25% of accidents involve drivers who are distracted. The goal of this law is to limit the number of accidents in school zones and construction zones where extra caution is needed. An offender of this law is subject to a \$75 fine imposed by the police.



Another change to the law makes it illegal for those who are under the age of 19, have an instructional permit, or a graduated driver's license, to talk on the phone while driving, except in cases of emergencies. This is to again, limit distractions for those who have little experience with driving.

Along these same lines, it is currently illegal to send or read texts, or any electronic communications while driving in a car. This is punishable by a \$75 ticket. This law was put into effect due to the obvious distraction involved with multitasking while driving.

If you have any questions about any of the above mentioned laws, please contact Yorkville Police Department.

--Officer Sarah Klingel

Special Olympics Illinois

Kendall County Law Enforcement is again presenting our annual Polar Plunge activity.

The event has had a couple of changes this year that should make things a little more comfortable after the big plunge. We will be busing people to Loon Lake from the Kendall County Fair grounds.

- March 7, 2010
- Registration at Kendall Fair 11am-1230pm
- 1pm Plunge participant will be bused to Loon Lake
- Participant will be bused back to Kendall Fair

For more information contact

www.plungeillinois.com

Emergency Kit

As police officers, we attempt to be prepared for whatever emergency we get called to. Part of this preparation is having the right equipment. This same mindset is needed for anyone who drives in winter conditions.

What extra items would be handy if you stalled or got stuck in a remote place during a snowstorm? An extra storage bin in your trunk with warm gloves, a silver emergency blanket, a flashlight with extra batteries, and a small first aid kit would be basic essentials.



You can get as elaborate as you would like. Other items could include a candle and matches or some nonperishable food items like self-opening canned goods or small packages of fruit-flavored candy.

These items would assist you until help arrived. Remember if you keep your vehicle running you need to make sure your exhaust is clear of debris and leave your window cracked for ventilation. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent killer. Hypothermia (rapid loss of body temperature) can happen to anyone so be prepared for the worst conditions.

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New Leadership

The Yorkville Police Department is starting a new year with a new leader at the helm. Chief Harold O. Martin III retired as of January 31st and Lt. Rich Hart will be stepping up into the new position.

Mayor Burd looked within the department and was able to find numerous qualified individuals and chose Lt. Hart as the United City of Yorkville' new top law enforcement officer.

The personnel at the department are sorry to see Chief Martin leave, but understand that thirty-one years of service is a commendable amount of time to give. The staff is also very excited with our new leadership and look forward to new ideas and administrative styles that inevitably change with the exchange of powers.

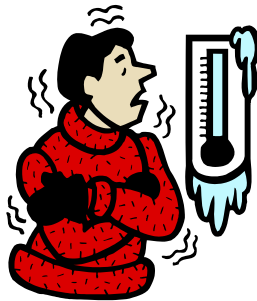
When there are promotions within an organization that had a proficient and healthy leadership, the advancement in command is competent and creates more openings within the department. Sergeant David Delaney will be promoted to Lieutenant.

If you see Retired Chief Harold O. Martin III, Chief Richard Hart, or Lt. Dave Delaney congratulate them on their new retirement and/or promotions.

Colder Temperatures Are Here- Now What?

The Yorkville Police Department works with several different community partners and one of those partnerships are with Rush-Copley Medical Center.

Alan S. Rosenberg, M.D., is Medical Director of Emergency Services and has addressed several issues regarding the colder temperatures and what special precautions should be taken against the outdoors. Here are a few of his suggestions that were taken from *Stay Informed* a Rush-Copley publication.



During the cold weather season, it's important to know how to protect yourself from potential cold weather hazards.

When you're exposed to the cold, the first line of defense is to wear loose-fitting clothing and dress in layers. Since nearly half of the body's heat can escape through the surface of the head and neck, it is important to wear a hat and scarf. This can help prevent frostbite and hypothermia.

Keep hydrated- Drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

Dress properly- Wear outer clothing that shields the wind

and sun from your skin. Cold and windy air causes a wind-chill effect that is much colder and more dangerous than the outside temperature.

Eat light- A snack before going out in the cold is better than a heavy meal, which requires a large blood flow to the gastrointestinal system to aid digestion. The digestive process may prevent warm blood from circulating to your fingers and toes. Save the heavier meal for when you are safely back inside.

Avoid alcohol- Alcohol causes your body to lose heat, in addition to contributing to dehydration.

Ask about your medication- Inquire with your physician if any of the medications you take can make you more susceptible to a cold weather illness.

All of these suggestions are something we should take a closer look at and be an educated weather minder.



On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:
www.yorkville.il.us

Illinois Laws:
www.legis.state.il.us

Secretary of State:
www.cyberdriveillinois.com