



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

DECEMBER 2019

December

7th: Pearl Harbor remembrance day.

December

21st: Winter begins

December

22nd.

Hanukkah

begins at sundown.

December

24th: Christmas Eve

December

25th:

Christmas

December

31st:

New year's Eve



Season's Greetings!

Between family gatherings, community events, shopping, and holiday cheer, this truly is the most wonderful time of the year. While all of these festivities are enjoyable, safety needs to be kept a priority. Be sure to read through the safety tips in this newsletter, and share them with your friends and family. As you are traveling to and from your parties and gatherings, please be careful on the roadways and designate a sober driver if you plan to consume any alcoholic beverages. Also, keep your eyes on the road and not on your cell phone or other device. One moment could change everything.

During this season of giving, I'm always very proud to serve and live amongst the citizens of Charles County. Our community is truly special, and it is most obvious during this time when people show such an outpouring of support for the various organizations working to help those less fortunate. Your donations of goods, food, and time really do make a difference in the lives of many.

As always, we are here for you whenever you need us. Please have a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season!

Sincerely,
Sheriff Troy D. Berry





CCSO
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
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 301-932-3080
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Know the Difference

- * **Winter storm warning:** Snow, sleet or ice expected..
- * **Winter Storm Watch:** Snow, sleet, or ice possible. This is usually issued 12-36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm.
- * **Winter Weather Advisory:** Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous.
- * **Freezing Rain:** Rain that freezes when it hits the ground or other surfaces, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.
- * **Sleet:** Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.
- * **Wind Chill:** the temperature it “feels like” when you are outside due to the combined effects of wind and cold temperature.
- * **Blizzard Warning:** Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow are expected to prevail for a period of 3 hours or more.

Holiday Shopping Safety

- If at all possible, shop during the day. If you have to shop during the evening hours, don't do it alone. Park in a well lit area and be aware of your surroundings.
 - If things don't look right when going to your vehicle, turn around and go back into the store. Ask if security or an employee can walk you to your vehicle .
 - Don't carry cash. Use a credit card but only carry the one you know you will be using . If there is a questionable charge the credit card company will help you dispute it.
 - Put your purchases in your trunk or where they cannot be seen.
 - Don't walk to your vehicle with your hands full. Have your keys ready.
- Enjoy your shopping but don't let your guard down.

Calling 911

Call takers are trained, certified professionals who can help you during an emergency, but there are also a few simple points to follow to help the call taker help you.

Tips for calling 911

- Tell the call taker your location, any landmarks or cross streets of where the emergency is and a brief description of what happened.
- Listen to the call taker's questions and answer clearly. 911 call takers are trained to ask the questions necessary to determine the type of medical, police, or fire response you need for your emergency.
- Be prepared to receive immediate lifesaving instructions over the phone until help arrives. Do not hang up until you are told to.
- If you dial 911 by mistake, don't hang up. Let the call taker know you contacted them by mistake. Call takers

many send first responders unnecessarily to check on the disconnected call.

Teaching Children to call 911

- Never use the term "nine-eleven"—there is no 11 key on the telephone.
- Explain reasons you would call 911 and what the meaning of an emergency is....
- Make sure your children know their address, phone number, full name and the full names of their parents.
- Teach your children to look at their surroundings when they're not at home. Street signs, street numbers and numbers on building and homes.
- Make sure your children can use a landline and a cell phone.
- Make sure your children know to get out first, before calling, if there is a fire or burglary.
- Tell your children to stay on the phone af-

ter they dial 911 and to follow the instructions of the call taker. Tell them they're to stay on the phone until they are told to hang up.

- Instruct children to call 911 only when there is an actual emergency. A life or death situation.

Non-emergency numbers include:

- Charles County Sheriff's Office 301-932-2222
- Maryland State Police-La Plata 301-392-1200
- Maryland Poison Center 1-800-222-1222
- Maryland Center for Missing Children 1-800-843-5678
- Charles County Emergency Services 301-609-3400
- Charles County Animal Control 301-609-3425

Information taken from Charles County Emergency preparedness guide.





Charles County Sheriff's Office

6915 Crain highway
P.O. Box 189
La Plata, MD 20646

(301)932-2222



REMINDER
FROM THE
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR
VEHICLE
DOORS**

#9PMROUTINE