Community Partnership Connection



Guide to Door to Door Solicitors

Door-to-door fundraising is as common in the summer as lemonade stands. High school athletes sell local vendor discount cards, Boy Scouts sell popcorn, local schools sell gift wrap. But what used to be a summer norm has now turned into an opportunity for crime.

While some solicitations are legitimate, others sell damaged and overpriced goods or may even be scouting homes for future burglaries. Before you open your door to a solicitor, consider this. In recent months there has been an increase in illegal solicitors, some extremely aggressive, who reportedly sell items such as magazine subscriptions, household cleaners, and residential security systems. Don't expect all perpetrators of door to door sales scams to look the part. Some are clean and well dressed and use special psychological techniques to try to get into your home or get your money.

Here are some guidelines on how to help protect you and your family from illegal solicitors:

- If you don't know the person, don't open the door. Never feel obligated to greet an unfamiliar person knocking at your door.
- Solicitors must have a business license and permit. Call your local law enforcement agency if a solicitor is aggressively attempting to get into your home or refusing to show their license/permit.
- If you are not interested, simply close the door and lock it. You don't owe the person an explanation.
- Stand in front of your home to see what is visible from the street. If you can see your valuable items through the front windows, so can potential burglars.
- Always keep doors and windows locked. Storm doors or security doors are helpful when dealing with solicitors, because you can see and speak safely through the door. Never allow an unfamiliar person into your house.
- Residents can put a "no solicitors" sign on their door to help keep solicitors away.
- If you see criminal or suspicious activity, call non-emergency dispatch at 832-WCSO (9276)

Tim Kuzanek Fills Open Assistant Sheriff Position



Assistant Sheriff Kuzanek will assume responsibility for the Administration Bureau to include Records, Payroll, Research and Development, Crime Lab, Community Relations, and Training. Assistant Sheriff Kuzanek served in several key leadership roles for the Sheriff's Office to include directing the Northern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center and serving as the Sheriff's Office Governmental Affairs Representative. His experience is diverse and comprehensive, serving in all bureaus and participating in special teams such as SWAT, DRT, Hostage Team, and marine Patrol.

"Tim is an excellent example of progressive law enforcement leadership. I look forward to his contributions to the executive team." – Sheriff Mike Haley

Summer Brings Heightened Risk for Residents who Play In Truckee River







As hotter temperatures continue throughout the summer, more people are using the Truckee River, reservoirs, and local lakes to "cool off," recreate and to fish. But rivers are inherently dangerous places to play, especially when the water flow is high, fast and cold.

Washoe County Search and Rescue team water rescues are on the rise, and water safety has become their number one priority. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) cautions residents to use extreme care while on the Truckee River. Although it is not mandatory to wear a personal floatation device downstream, it is highly recommended. The other threat aside from the swift water is water temperature. The heavy mountain snow melt flows into the Truckee River, creating waters that are frigid and dangerous. It is not uncommon to treat for hypothermia even in the hottest summer months. And even the best swimmers can drown from rapids, rocks and water exposure.

If using a kayak or inflatable raft, be sure to write your name and phone number on the inside with waterproof marker. If you overturn your boat or raft, this information will significantly help SAR teams in their search and rescue efforts. Additionally, if you lose your boat and are safe, this avoids the high risk and costly rescue efforts in searching for the "missing" person.

Other river safety suggestions include:

- Never kayak/raft alone. A partner with you or on land can provide assistance in most circumstances or summon help if needed
- Wear safety gear: U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (life jacket), helmet and insulation. Use this link for more information about personal safety devices <u>click here: Nevada Department of Wildlife</u>
- Avoid hypothermia by not staying in the water for long periods of time.
- Keep children under close supervision at all times and never let them enter the river alone. Children should always wear a life jacket/personal floatation device when entering the water.
- Recognize your limitations and plan your excursion realistically. The Truckee River is higher and faster this year. Check
 water conditions and make conservative decisions before getting in the water. Never boat after dark. Know where the
 entry and exit points are located.
- Be aware of potential hazards, such as deep and shallow areas, currents, depth changes, and obstructions. Watch for
 debris in the water. The higher water has picked up debris from low water areas making navigation more difficult.
- Don't drink alcohol and get in the water. Alcohol clouds judgment and makes you more susceptible to hypothermia.
- Watch out for the dangerous "too's" too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Carry basic self-rescue gear and practice using it.
- If you do fall in, don't try to stand up. If a foot gets caught in the rocks, the water could hold you under. Instead, try to float on your back with feet pointed downstream while working your way toward shore.

Spotlight on...

TIP: Trauma Intervention Program "Citizens Helping Citizens in Crisis"





The call goes out to dispatch: a family is in crisis after the tragic death of a family member. The next call that goes out is to a Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) volunteer, who many times gets out of bed to come into the crisis situation with emergency responders to focus on the needs of the family.

TIP of Northern Nevada is a non-profit organization where citizen volunteers respond 24/7 to traumatic incidents at the request of police, fire and hospital personnel to support those who are emotionally traumatized. TIP volunteers provide emotional and practical support to victims of traumatic events such as death, suicide attempts, fires and burglaries. And they come from all walks of life. Some are retired; some are busy with their families but still find time to dedicate themselves to others, while others have lost a family member and understand how it feels to have a person beside you at the darkest of times.

"Our volunteers feel that they are doing very little, yet when we talk to the families, we are told that the volunteers are angels, that they wouldn't have known how to cope without them." said TIP Executive Director, Gabrielle Totton. "They were their rock when there was no one else to lean on."

Totton says she looks for qualified candidates with a good heart, understands what tragedy is like and can relate to others who are hurting. To learn more about TIP of Northern Nevada, you can go to www.tipnnv.org or view the national public service announcement at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk-r4OhSO1A.

Our Trauma Intervention Program of Northern Nevada Volunteers



Ruby Red Heels Helps Victims of Domestic Violence



Undersheriff Todd Vinger participated for the second consecutive year in the "Run the Bases with the ACES" event to benefit Safe Embrace.



Safe Embrace is a full service family violence intervention and prevention program offering services to victims of domestic violence and their children. The Undersheriff and other local dignitaries received recognition in the RGJ's Winner's Column for putting their heart and "sole" into the event.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Community Relations

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AIR SQUADRON Supports Oregon SAR Program



The Sheriff's Office Air Squadron recently assisted with Search and Rescue training in Lake County, Oregon. The team took 10 personal aircraft and 23 volunteer Air Squadron members to Lakeview to assist Lake County Search and Rescue in starting their own Air Squadron program. Included in the training was a mock search to demonstrate how to divide airspace and control multiple aircrafts in the same search area.

Sheriff's Office Air Squadron Program

The Washoe County Sheriff's Air Squadron is a quick-responding resource reporting to the Sheriff of Washoe County. The primary mission is aerial search for lost, overdue or missing people and property.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Aero Squadron was organized by the late Sheriff Ray J. Root in the spring of 1937 with 11 members. It continued until his death in December 1951. Sheriff C. W. Bud Young re-activated the Squadron with 16 members on July 20 1953. Valuable service was provided until August 1979. Sheriff Vincent G. Swinney reactivated the current Washoe County Sheriff's Air Squadron, Inc., on February 21, 1983. The Air Squadron is the senior volunteer group within the Search and Rescue arm of the Sheriff's Office. The squadron currently has 35 active members, made up of pilots and observers. All aircraft are owned by the volunteer pilots who fly them.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Heidi Howe had received the national designation of Certified Jail Manager through the Jail Manager Certification Commission (JMCC), by authority of the American Jail Association (AJA). Lt. Howe is one of 357 jail professionals nationwide to have achieved this designation and the first in Northern Nevada.