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National Child Abuse Prevention Month

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It's unfortunate, but necessary, that we must have a child abuse prevention month. However, the good news is that there is a national recognition of the importance of preventing the abuse of our young people, as well as identifying and prosecuting the abusers.

Abuse prevention begins at home; in your home, your neighbor's home and every home in America. How we treat the young people in our lives (our children, neighbors, grandchildren, friends and acquaintances) will leave a lasting impression on them with ideas, thoughts and actions about how to treat others. A child who is raised in an abusive home or has contact with adults who abuse will be forever impacted. In fact, later in life they may try to emulate what they saw, felt and experienced in their youth if they don't receive the proper type of counseling and assistance.

PREVENTION and INTERVENTION

- ✓ Have an open relationship with your child! An important step in preventing, as well as identifying abuse, is helping your child be comfortable in talking to you about their concerns, fears and what is taking place in their life.
- ✓ Know who has contact with your child. Don't leave your child with someone you don't trust completely. A babysitter who a friend *recommended* may not be the best choice, and a friend of a friend may not be as trustworthy as you expect. Be sure to do your *homework* so that you are completely confident and trusting in the person who is watching your child.
- ✓ LISTEN! Listen to what your child says or talks about. In some cases, older children who are victims may make unusual or age-inappropriate comments as a way of determining if they feel safe discussing with you something that concerns them. If a child expresses a sincere fear of someone, look further into the situation to determine the true cause of the fear.
- ✓ LOOK! Physical injuries are not always a sign of child abuse, as it can come in many different forms, including emotional and sexual abuse. However, physical signs cannot be overlooked. Using an appropriate tone and approach, you should ask about unusual injuries and discuss them with your child. While most children are usually very genuine in their answers, be wary of answers that may mask what is occurring.
- ✓ ACT! If your child or a child you know is in an abusive situation, take action immediately by contacting us. Abuse and violence tend to escalate as time goes by and every day brings the potential of increasing abuse.

About Trust...

Sometimes even people we trust (family members, teachers, clergy, babysitters) break that trust and abuse children. By developing an open relationship with your child, you can help them to understand that it is okay to tell even if someone they are supposed to trust does harm to them.

How do I protect my child from persons they don't know on line?

The very best prevention method is openness and honesty between you and your child, as well as setting important ground rules. Discuss with your child what can occur on the Internet, in chat rooms, on social networking sites and other cyber sites. Give them examples of how people can pretend to be someone they are not by getting information about their interests and using them to create a false bond or relationship. Observe and be aware of your children's online activities, let them know that if they are interested in meeting someone they are chatting with that you must be involved and will supervise the meeting.

For more information about child abuse prevention month, go to the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at: www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/

HOME SECURITY 101 Who are they going to call?

It's time to leave for work and we lock up the house and jump in the car and take off for the office. As our home sits unoccupied during the day any number of problems could occur, from someone breaking in to a more common occurrence like a broken water pipe, damage from a storm or other non-criminal happenings.

If your neighbor noticed a problem would they know how to get a hold of you? As close as neighbors can be (and we think they know us so well), they may not have the most important piece of information; your telephone number! Sure they have your house phone number, but can they get a hold of you when you're at work?



It's a great idea to provide a trusted neighbor with your emergency contact telephone numbers. That way if there's a problem at your home of any type, they can let you know.

Speaking of neighbors, it's not uncommon for residents to provide their close friend/neighbor with a key to their residence (just in that rare chance you realize you locked the doors but forgot to take your keys!). Certainly, you would only provide your most trusted neighbor/friend with a key, but are they taking as good care of it as you would expect? What if a burglar broke into their home and took *your* key? To help protect your key, encourage your trusted neighbor to keep it in a well-hidden location in their home and to NOT put any identifying information on it such as a tag or a chain that would reveal it's the key to your home. This way, if it's found or stolen it can't be used by a criminal to unlock your home.

Making Your Donations Count



Once again, the world witnessed a catastrophic event that took lives, destroyed towns and changed a country forever. The Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster has impacted so many and our hearts go out to all those affected. With disaster comes compassion, and with compassion comes a willingness to help. Fortunately, there are many who are in a position to help those who have been impacted and as the disaster continues to unfold, their generosity in donating to the various recovery funds will help to rebuild the lives of the Japanese people.

This also brings out some of the worst; those who view this as an opportunity to take from others, to take advantage of their generosity and divert those helping funds to their own personal accounts.

A passionate email asking to help the children impacted or a letter with dramatic pictures can pull on our heartstrings. In some cases they are from legitimate organizations, however in some cases they are from persons looking to make a quick steal, or hide behind a semi-legitimate organization that forwards only a small fraction of every donation to those in need.

The answer is **don't stop giving; give wisely!** Donating to national, well-known assistance organizations is a great start. Do not give to unknown organizations that are soliciting via email. If you do get an email from a known organization, call them directly (using a number you obtain from a known source such as their national website) to make sure that the email is really from them. If someone calls identifying themselves as a representative of an organization, do not ever give them credit card numbers, financial or personal information. If they are legitimate, they have your address already and a simple request from you to have them mail you information should be well received. After you receive the information in the mail you can then better evaluate their legitimacy.

For charities that you are unfamiliar with but are considering donating to, you can contact the Better Business Bureau where the charity is located, contact the State Attorney General's Office or visit www.guidestar.org (a non-profit organization that provides in-depth financial and accountability information about charitable organizations) to determine if it's the right place for your donation to be distributed to those in need.

9-1-1 Awareness Month

April marks the annual 9-1-1 Awareness Month and it's the perfect time to review when to use this important link for emergency assistance. Emergency response begins with the appropriate use of the system. For every non-emergency or inappropriate call to 9-1-1, emergency services personnel are diverted from assisting those most in need, so it's important that the 9-1-1 system is used appropriately. For many, they have never needed to dial 9-1-1. However, the need could come for anyone at anytime and it may not just be an adult who makes the call.

When instructing young people, be sure to stress when it is and is not appropriate to call. Curiosity can overrule common sense at times so taking some of the mystery out of what happens will help to avoid wandering fingers on the phone keypad. Have them pretend to call for help and then ask them the questions that communications personnel would ask in an emergency. Questions such as "what is the emergency?", "Where do you live?", "Is anyone hurt?" These are some of the questions they will be asked if calling 9-1-1 and will help us send the right type of assistance for their emergency.



Children aren't the only ones who should be educated in 9-1-1 usage. Many adults use the system for incidents that did not require an emergency call. Keep in mind that for every non-emergency call placed through 9-1-1 that is one more call taking up the time of personnel who could be handling real emergency calls for help. Use it, but use it wisely!

9-1-1 for kids

- Learn your address and telephone number
- Know when and when not to call 9-1-1
- Practice speaking slowly, listening carefully to the questions asked and answering them as accurately as possible.

The RIGHT use

- Police, fire & medical emergencies
- In-progress crimes

The WRONG use

- Crimes that are not in progress
- Directions or road conditions
- Weather reports

The Monthly 2do List



The price at the pumps seem to be attached to a big helium balloon that's taken flight and the sky is the limit! There's no question that fuel prices are moving up at an unprecedented rate. As fuel becomes more expensive, its value to thieves becomes greater.

Twenty gallons of gas that you *didn't have to pay for* can seem very enticing to those who don't believe in respecting the property of others. Using crime preventive common sense can help you keep your gas in your tank!

- ✓ Consider a locking gas cap. This will significantly reduce the chances of someone siphoning the fuel from your tank.
- ✓ Park in well-lit, visible areas where a thief would be hard pressed to "secretly" siphon your gas.
- ✓ Keep an eye on your gas gauge. Some thieves try a less obvious approach by only removing small quantities, but on a regular basis.

Every type of effective theft prevention begins with awareness and making it less enticing for the criminals. Think one step ahead of them and you will be able to better protect your car, home and property.



**THE CRIME PREVENTION CONNECTION
SERVICE TO UTAH POLICE DEPARTMENTS
IS THROUGH A GRANT PROVIDED TO THE
UCOPA BY THE UTAH COMMISSION ON
CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE.**

