

Troopers Offer Tips to Protect Yourself and Your Property



Dover – Now that we have entered in to the holiday shopping season, with the weather turning colder and the hours of daylight decreased, the Delaware State Police have seen an increase in the number of thefts from vehicles, not only in parking lots, but at residences as well. Another crime trend also on the rise during the holiday season is the theft of delivered packages from residences.

In order to help you protect yourself and your property we would like to offer the following crime prevention tips.

Protect Yourself

- Keep your head up and scan your surroundings. Make eye contact with people so they are aware that *you* see them. This sends a message that you know they are there, and that you can also identify them if necessary.
- Walk confidently. Project an assertive, confident image.
- Avoid listening to music through earphones when out on

the street. It prevents you from paying full attention, and distracts you from what and who is around you.

- If you are being followed, or you see a person or group that makes you feel uncomfortable, give yourself permission to act; cross the street, walk in another direction, go in to a business, or ask other people walking if you may walk a short distance with them.
- If someone demands your property and displays or implies in any way that they have a weapon, don't resist. Your physical property isn't worth getting injured or killed over.

Secure Your Vehicle

- Do not leave valuables in your car. That sounds like common sense, but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target.
- If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously.
- Once home, unload your valuables immediately. Do not store valuables in your car any longer than necessary, and certainly never overnight.
- Try to park in busy, well-lighted areas, or in your garage (if you have one).
- Raise your windows and lock ALL of your vehicle's doors even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every week, items are stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner expected to be away for "just a second."
- Set any alarm or anti-theft device. If you have one, use it! Many people believe that car alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to vehicle break-ins
- Don't think your dark tinted windows will hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights to see through

tint, and after-market tint is handy to keep all the broken glass in one “sheet” when they break out your window.

Deter Package Theft

Package thefts often increase between the months of October and January. Some package thieves follow delivery trucks and then take the packages after the delivery is made. Others are crimes of opportunity, when thieves see packages in plain view of the street. Here are a few measures you can take to decrease your chances of being a target:

- Track your shipment online.
- Choose a shipping option that requires you to sign for delivery.
- Arrange to ship the package to another location for someone else to receive. This can be a friend, relative, trusted neighborhood or landlord/apartment leasing office. Many local ‘mailbox’ businesses may agree to accept shipment of your item for a small fee.
- Ask the delivery service to hold the package for customer pick-up at their facility.
- A more expensive option is to buy a locking bin. This should be bolted down so the bin cannot be removed. You can then give the key code to the delivery company.

Regardless of the situation, circumstance or location, if you observe any type of suspicious activity make sure to report it.

“TRUST YOUR GUT”

“SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING”

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 111918 1200

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***Update Name Released* Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash – New Castle**

New Castle, Delaware- The Delaware State Police have identified the name of the individual who was killed in a crash on Friday, November 15, 2018 on U.S. 13 south DuPont Parkway near Jefferson Avenue, New Castle as Wendy L. Hitt, 39 of Newark, Delaware.

The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit.

[Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash – New Castle](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 111818 2211

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State Police Investigating Industrial Accident – Delmar Speedway

Delmar, Delaware – The Delaware State Police are investigating an industrial accident that seriously injured a Pocomoke, Maryland man.

On Saturday, November 17, 2018 at approximately 3:00 p.m., troopers responded to 37735 Raceway Road Delmar, Delaware for a report of an industrial accident involving a drag car at the Delmar Speedway. The investigation revealed a driver, 34 year old of Pocomoke, Maryland was operating a 1995 Ford Mustang drag car. The driver was in the left lane and was making a

timed pass by himself. The track was closed to the public and only open to the drivers. During the timed run he hit the eighth mile mark at a high rate of speed and suddenly lost control of his vehicle and struck a guard rail with his left driver's side. The vehicle then struck the finish line post and went into a barrel roll coming to rest on the vehicles roof. The driver was wearing a helmet and restrained with safety belts at the time of the accident.

The driver sustained serious life threatening injuries and was flown by the Delaware State Aviation Unit to the Christiana Hospital. The Delaware State Police continues the investigation into this incident.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz,

Released: 111818 1602

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Troopers Arrest Dover Man Following Attempted Robbery of Rodney Village Restaurant – Dover

Dover, Delaware- The Delaware State Police have arrested a 36 year-old Dover man following the attempted robbery of a local area restaurant that occurred last night.

The investigation began last night, Saturday, November 17, 2018 at approximately 8:45 p.m. after a male suspect entered the Pizzeria and Taqueria Porta Bella restaurant located at 1618 South Governors Avenue, Rodney Village Shopping Center, Dover, Delaware. The suspect approached the front register and reached his hand around the counter to grab the tip jar while the employees were busy. As the suspect attempted to flee from the restaurant with the jar, he was confronted by the employees. A struggle ensued with the suspect and he was restrained by the employees until troopers arrived. The money was recovered and no injuries were reported by the employees. It was also determined through investigative measures that this same suspect was the one who attempted to steal the tip jar on November 14, 2018.

The suspect, **Titus A. Rodriguez, 46 of Dover**, was arrested and taken into custody with the assistance of the brave employees of the restaurant. Titus A. Rodriguez was charged by the Delaware State Police with Attempted Robbery 2nd Degree and Attempted to Commit Theft. He was arraigned before the Justice

of the Peace Magistrate Court 7 and committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution in default of \$4,000.00 secured bond. He also had an active capias for Failure to Appear on another Robbery case investigated by the Dover Police Department with a \$5,000.00 cash bond.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz,

Released: 111818 1521

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Troopers Investigating Pedestrian Crash – Ellendale

Ellendale, Delaware – The Delaware State Police is investigating a crash involving a pedestrian that took place Friday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:22 p.m., Friday, November 16, 2018, on northbound (U.S. 113) DuPont Boulevard in the area of Staytonville Road, Ellendale, Delaware.

A 2017 Jeep Patriot was traveling northbound in the right lane on (U.S. 113) DuPont Boulevard near Staytonville Road, Ellendale. A pedestrian was on the white dotted line in the road when the driver honked the horn. The pedestrian then took a step for unknown reasons in an easterly direction into the path of the vehicle. The driver did not swerve and the left side mirror struck the pedestrian. The Jeep came to a controlled stop near the area of the collision.

The pedestrian, a 33 year-old Lincoln man, sustained multiple non-life threatening injuries and was transported to the Christiana Hospital by the Delaware State Police Aviation Unit. The investigation determined that he was wearing dark clothing and not wearing any reflective clothing or carrying a flashlight. He was not at a marked crosswalk. He was cited for Failure to Carry a Light and Drunk on Highway.

The driver, 23 year-old man of New Castle, was properly restrained and not injured in the collision. There is no impairment on the part of the driver.

The Delaware State Police is continuing their investigation into this incident. The road in the area of the crash was closed for approximately 45 minutes while the crash was investigated and cleared.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 111818 1301

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Troopers Seek Assistance Identifying Man for Indecent Exposure – Hockessin

Hockessin, Delaware – The Delaware State Police are investigating an alleged indecent exposure incident where a

man was observed exposing himself while in a convenience store.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:52 p.m., Saturday, November 17, 2018 as the suspect entered the Wawa Convenience Store located at 605 Yorklyn Road, Hockessin, Delaware and exposed his private area to an employee. The suspect was standing in line as if he was going to buy something and while standing he was speaking loudly to himself. The suspect also followed a female patron in the store while exposing himself trying to get her attention. The employee called for help and the suspect fled the business. The employees became alarmed and immediately called 911.

The suspect was described as a black male, approximately 5' 10" to 6'01" tall, 200 to 235 lbs., 35-45 years of age wearing a black knit hat, gray zip up hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans. After he fled, he was seen entering a black or dark blue (4-door) passenger car.

Anyone with information regarding this incident are asked to contact Trooper J. Adams at Troop 6 by calling 302-633-5000. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 111818 0843

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Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Wanted Suspect- Laurel

Laurel – The Delaware State Police is asking for the public's assistance in locating: **Marc Brown, 19 of Delmar, Delaware**. He is wanted for Attempting to Sell Stolen Property Value Over \$1500 and Receiving Stolen Property. He is wanted on active warrants from the Sussex County Superior Court for Failing to Appear on Felony Theft Charges and Criminal Trespass, as well as active warrants for the Laurel Alderman Court for failing to pay fines for traffic offenses.

On November 4, 2018, Troopers responded to Womach Road, Laurel, for a reported burglary. The investigation revealed that a suspect entered victim's detached garage in early November and removed a 2006 Yamaha Kodiak ATV. Troopers conducted computer checks for the stolen ATV and developed Marc Brown as a suspect. Through investigative measures the

suspect was positively identified as Marc Brown, 19 of Delmar, Delaware. He is described as a black male, 5'04" tall, 165 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes.

If anyone has information on the whereabouts of Marc Brown, they are asked to please contact Detective T. Powell of Troop 4, Georgetown at 302-856-5850 and/or 302-752-3807. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 111718 1640

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DSP S.O.A.R. Searching For

Wanted Sex Offender

Dover, DE- The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R) is currently looking for the following wanted sex offenders after they either failed to register or re-register their current address. If anyone knows the location of these subjects, they are asked to call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com/>

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sgt. Richard Bratz,

Released:111718 1510

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Homeless Sex Offender Notification

Dover- The following are not wanted. These are Homeless Sex Offender Public Notifications. If you have information that any of the listed subjects are occupying a residence, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sgt. Richard Bratz,

Released: 111718 1431

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Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash – New Castle

New Castle, Delaware – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that took place last night.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:11 p.m., Friday, November 16, 2018, on southbound (U.S. 13) DuPont Parkway in the area of Jefferson Avenue, New Castle, Delaware.

A 1992 Dodge Dakota was traveling southbound on (U.S. 13) DuPont Parkway in the left lane in the area of Jefferson Avenue. A pedestrian was in the grass median attempting to cross the southbound lanes of (U.S. 13) from the east side of the roadway to the west side. The pedestrian crossed directly into the path of the Dodge Dakota. The driver attempted to swerve left to avoid the collision but was unable to miss the pedestrian. As a result the front right of the Dakota collided with the pedestrian. The Dodge Dakota came to a controlled stop on Stahl Avenue near the collision scene.

The pedestrian, a 39 year-old Newark woman, succumbed to her injuries prior to being transported to the Wilmington Hospital. The investigation determined that she was wearing dark clothing and not wearing any reflective clothing or carrying a flashlight. She was not at a marked crosswalk. Impairment on her behalf is unknown at this time. Identification is pending the notification of next of kin.

The driver, 42 year-old man of Newark, was properly restrained

and not injured in the collision. There is no impairment on the part of the driver.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. The road in the area of the crash was closed for approximately two hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov

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