

Chikaming Township Police Department

Fall/Winter 2017/2018 News Letter

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Chikaming Township Police Department! We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season. With that being said, please drive carefully this fall and winter. Please be mindful when inclement weather (snow/sleet/freezing rain) is upon us to SLOW DOWN. Leave for work, or your destination earlier to give you time to drive carefully during inclement weather conditions.

Drivers that are unable to control their vehicle during inclement weather conditions, or on icy or wet roads, may be issued a civil infraction citation punishable by fines and costs. Injuring another motorist may result in being arrested and charged with felony offense, punishable by a number of years in the state prison, along with fines, costs, and restitution. Killing another motorist may result in being arrested and charged with a felony offense, punishable up to 15-years in the state prison, along with fines, costs, and restitution.

Also, our officers will be out in full force over the holiday season cracking down on drunk drivers. Please be mindful and have a designated driver when enjoying your holiday festivities. All too often, people have too much to drink and get behind the wheel of a vehicle and end up crashing, injuring themselves, or other innocent motorist(s).

Operating a vehicle while intoxicated is a 93-day misdemeanor offense, along with fines and costs that can reach in the tens of thousands of dollars. Injuring another motorist while operating a vehicle while intoxicated is a felony offense, punishable by a number of years in state prison, along with fines, costs, and restitution. Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated causing the death of another person is a felony offense, punishable up to 15-years in the state prison, along with fines, costs, and restitution. PLEASE do not drink and drive!

Please be mindful of our first responders and wrecker services when they are out on the roadways policing traffic crashes, enforcing traffic laws and towing vehicles concerning the move over laws. These laws are written to protect us from being injured or killed. We all have families to go home to. Please read the law below:

According to the Motor Vehicle Code, section 257.653(a):

“(1) Upon approaching and passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is giving a visual signal by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating red, blue, or white lights as permitted by section 698, the driver of an approaching vehicle shall exhibit due care and caution, as required under the following:

(a) On any public roadway with at least 2 adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, the driver of the approaching vehicle shall proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way by moving into a lane at least 1 moving lane or 2 vehicle widths apart from the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, unless directed otherwise by a police officer. If movement to an adjacent lane or 2 vehicle widths apart is not possible due to weather, road conditions, or the immediate presence of vehicular or pedestrian traffic in parallel moving lanes, the driver of the approaching vehicle shall proceed as required in subdivision (b).

(b) On any public roadway that does not have at least 2 adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction as the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, or if the movement by the driver of the vehicle into an adjacent lane or 2 vehicle widths apart is not possible as described in subdivision (a), the approaching vehicle shall reduce and maintain a safe speed for weather, road conditions, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic and proceed with due care and caution, or as directed by a police officer.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

(3) A person who violates this section and causes injury to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel in the immediate area of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

(4) A person who violates this section and causes death to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel in the immediate area of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$7,500.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 15 years, or both,” (State of Michigan, 2017)

Please remember to plan for emergency situations. I think most of us remember the blizzard of 1978 when some were trapped in their homes for a number of days. Have an emergency kit prepared in your homes should you lose power, or another emergency or disaster happens where you could be trapped in your home for a number of days. Below are links to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that will aid you in creating a supply kit for you and your families.

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390846764394.../checklist_2014.pdf

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4085/updates/building-supply-kit-your-family>

If you see anything suspicious, please do not hesitate to call us. The slogan “If You See Something, Say Something TM,” by the Department of Homeland Security, is a slogan our community supports. No matter how small it appears to be to you---it may turn into something

much larger than you think. You are our eyes and ears out there so please be sure to pick the phone up and call us should you see anything that appears to be suspicious.

Remember we have a medical waste drop box in our lobby; therefore, please help yourself and drop off any medical waste (not needles) in the drop box in our lobby.

We wish to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and support for Officer Wyman during his difficult time. We also wish to thank our community for their overwhelming support for our police department. All of us at the police department are grateful and proud to serve such an amazing community.

Respectfully,

Todd A. Taylor Sr.

Chief of Police

Sources

Department of Homeland Security (2017). *If You See Something, Say Something™ | Homeland Security*. Retrieved November 22, 2017 from , Web site: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>

State of Michigan (2017). *257.653a Stationary emergency vehicle giving visual signal; duty of approaching vehicle to exhibit due care and caution; violation; penalty.*. Retrieved November 22, 2017 from , Web site: www.michigan.gov/msp/