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3.1 Earthquake Rattles Parts of Southeast Missouri

AUGUST 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

3.1 Earthquake Rattles Parts of Southeast Missouri

Southeast, Missouri - A magnitude 3.1 earthquake rattled parts of southeast Missouri on Friday, Aug. 18.

The quake happened around 9:18 a.m. Friday about six miles northeast of Portageville, Missouri.

It had a depth of about seven miles.

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Countywide Insurance Has Tips for a Safe Solar Eclipse Watch

AUGUST 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Countywide Insurance Has Tips for a Safe Solar Eclipse Watch](#)

Have you heard? The Great American Solar Eclipse will occur on August 21, 2017!

Stoddard County, Missouri - Because you live in one of 12 states in the "path of totality" for prime viewing, County Wide Insurance wants to share some helpful tips for you, which you can share with your friends and family, to safely enjoy the eclipse.

This full solar eclipse will traverse the United States from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. The last total solar eclipse to cross the United States from coast-to-coast was 99 years ago in 1918. Your state is projecting especially heavy volume—up to a million eclipse visitors! As a result, streets and highways across the state will be susceptible to very heavy traffic in the days before and after the eclipse. Take a look at this map of the eclipse path and review the tips below to stay safe and maximize your enjoyment of the eclipse.

If you plan to travel:

Arrive in your viewing location at least one day—or ideally two days—in advance of August 21. Some interstate highways in or near the path of totality may become parking lots on the morning of the eclipse.

Be aware of distracted drivers. Leave plenty of space between yourself and the car ahead as there may be drivers on the road who are unfamiliar with the area.

If you have not yet secured lodging, plan to camp or take an RV. There will be plenty of temporary campsites on farms and empty lots.

Be as self-sufficient as possible. Keep your gas tank topped, and if safely possible, carry extra fuel. Bring plenty of water, food, and toilet paper. Don't forget sun-screen and hats.

If you absolutely must stay in touch with family or work, rent a satellite phone. Cell phone systems may be overwhelmed. Carry extra cell phone batteries/chargers and bring an old-fashioned paper map in the event limited cell service disrupts navigation apps. It may be helpful to download a traffic app to stay informed of real time traffic data.

Bring eclipse glasses, and be sure to grab them now before shortages occur. You'll need these to watch the partial stages of eclipse. Learn how to safely view the eclipse.

Get good eclipse maps of the path. These will be invaluable if you need to relocate, and they'll make a great souvenir of the event!

Watch the weather report on your local TV station in the days before the eclipse. Broadcast meteorologists will be giving eclipse weather forecasts. Try to relocate to another area early if your target destination has a poor weather prospect.

For those not traveling:

Stock up on necessities up to a week ahead as stores may run low on supplies.

Avoid the areas of peak congestion as much as possible. Consider rescheduling non-critical appointments to a day and time after the eclipse has ended.

Finally, enjoy the eclipse! This is a rare, once-in-a-lifetime experience—the next solar eclipse to touch only American soil won't occur again until January 25, 2316!

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Dexter PD to Participate in Labor Day Crackdown

AUGUST 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter PD to Participate in Labor Day Crackdown

August/Labor Day Crackdown “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” (DSOGPO) Weekend Crackdown To Reduce Substance–Impaired Driving Fatalities

Dexter, Missouri - Local police will be out in full force as part of the annual nationwide August/Labor Day Crackdown weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" substance-impaired driving crackdown. The crackdown, which will include high-visibility enforcement throughout Dexter, will run from August 18 - September 3, 2017.

The effective nationwide substance–impaired driving crackdown will include high-visibility enforcement, high-profile events, and will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb substance–impaired driving over the August/Labor Day weekend holiday.

Dexter Police said its Officers will be aggressively looking for substance–impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving impaired. Although it is illegal in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive impaired (having a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), far too many people across the nation get behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol. The latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration underscore the serious nature of the nation’s continuing drunk driving epidemic.

"Every year, about one third of all motor vehicle traffic deaths involve one or more substance- impaired drivers or motorcycle operators," said Chief Stone. "Preliminary data indicates in 2016, 218 people were killed and 664 seriously injured on Missouri's roadways in crashes that involved at least one substance-impaired driver." That works out to approximately one substance-impaired driver involved fatality every 1-3/4 days and one substance-impaired driving serious injury every 1/2 day.

Chief Stone added the August/Labor Day Weekend holiday is particularly dangerous. During the August/Labor Day weekend holiday August 19 – September 5, 2016, 16 people were killed and 34 seriously injured involving at least one substance-impaired driver.

"Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign reduces substance-impaired driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we will make Dexter's roadways safer for everyone throughout the holiday," said Chief Stone.

"We want to remind everyone that getting behind the wheel impaired is a terrible idea. Unfortunately, not only does being under the influence impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely, it also impairs your judgment and good sense about whether you can, or should drive. If you have any doubt about your sobriety, do not get behind the wheel. **If you do chose to drive impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses,**" Chief Stone said.

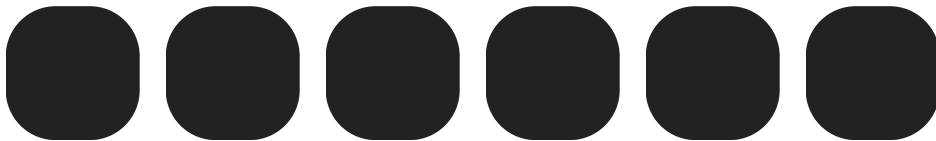
Chief Stone noted that being arrested for driving under the influence of any substance brings a wide range of negative consequences into one's life. Substance-impaired drivers face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

"Driving while impaired is simply not worth the risk. So don't take the chance. Remember, we will be out in force and we will be watching, so 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over,'" said Chief Stone.

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City of Dexter Offices Closed for Holiday

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U.S. 60 in Butler County Reduced for Bridge Repairs

AUGUST 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

U.S. 60 in Butler County Reduced for Bridge Repairs

Route 60 eastbound in Butler County will be reduced to one lane as Missouri Department of Transportation crews perform bridge repairs.

The bridge is located over the Saint Francis River bridge near Fisk.

Weather permitting, work will be performed Monday, Aug. 21 and Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

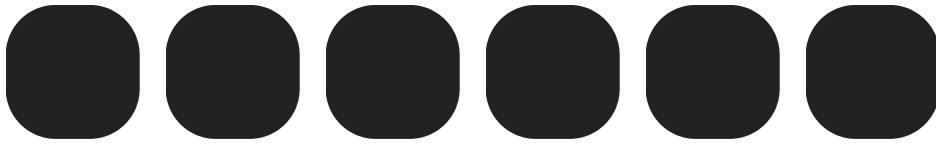
The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

For additional information, contact MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

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DPR Takes Action Against Disrespectful Behavior and Profanity

AUGUST 14TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

DPR Takes Action Against Disrespectful Behavior and Profanity

Dexter, Missouri - A walk in the park is more than just a nice way to spend an afternoon. It is essential component for great health! Dexter Parks and Recreation has recently had some challenges at one of their heavily utilized parks and are now taking a stand against disrespectful behavior and profanity.

After receiving complaints of profanity and disrespect with many of the incidents involved groups of congregating teens and young adults on the basketball courts, city leaders got involved. The park in question is West Park. It is located on Business Highway 60 just across from the Stoddard County Ambulance District.

West park is very popular, especially with families and young children. Over the past few months, Dexter Police Dept. has been called due to teenagers or young adults acting

disorderly. Things kept getting worse. More trash was left on the ground and on the tables in the pavilions. DPR employees were having to go and spend extra time at the park to clean it up so people could enjoy their surroundings without looking at someone's litter. The pavilion was even vandalized.

More complaints were steadily streaming into the office over the next few months to the point that DPR employees were sitting at the park observing basketball games and people using the park. Local residents began calling and letting the Dexter Parks know they would not be bringing their children back and that's when the Parks Dept. asked the police to step up patrols.

One of the goals of DPR is to try and prohibit conduct in the park before it reaches the level of a fight.

"Tempers flare, fights start and then some innocent child is going to get hurt," stated Jamie Rowe, Dexter Parks and Recreation Director. "That's not what we want. We want a safe environment for everyone to enjoy."

However in August a fight did ensue and a person was injured. Something had to change!

On Wednesday, August 9th after a long discussion at their board meeting, the Dexter Parks and Recreation Department decided to take the basketball goals and backboards down at West Park.

This is a temporary solution and the goals will be returned; however there is no date and it won't be anytime soon. The local Dexter Juvenile Officer also suggested that if the goals were removed this would also send a message that their behavior will not be tolerated at the park.

"We want to keep this park a family oriented place for everyone to use, but it has to be maintained in a safe setting," commented Jamie Rowe, DPR Director.

Simple cursing in front of someone in public is protected speech; however if that cursing incites a fight or is directed at a person or persons then it becomes disrespectful and can be considered as threatening behavior.

"They think it's their right to freedom of speech," stated Dexter Police Chief, Sammy Stone. "What they're doing is harassing a lot of the other people who use this park. A lot of parents who use this park don't want their children to be exposed to this profanity,"

"The language is atrocious and we're not going to put up with it, and they were warned multiple times. It didn't do any good, so we took the basketball goals down." Rowe said.

"We want everyone to come and enjoy the park," commented Rowe. "That's the purpose of a park to be used for birthday parties, walking, playing basketball and utilize the playground equipment. We even added a tennis court and striped a pickle ball area. We just want people to feel safe and welcomed at the park."

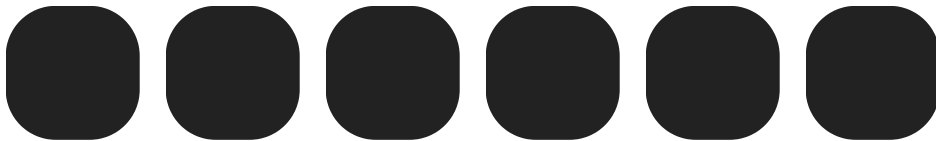
Some larger cities in Missouri and other states now have "no profanity" ordinances in their city parks. They give out tickets just like for littering, fighting, or vandalism.

"This is a sad situation because it costs the community and affects the families who could be enjoying the wonderful playground we have at West Park," commented a local walker who wished to remain anonymous. "I want to thank police for their hard work as well as the people in the community who are letting the parks people know about their behavior."

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