

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Letter

May 2014



Wildwood Precinct

16860 Main Street
Wildwood, MO 63040
(636) 458-9194



What's Going on in Wildwood / Upcoming Events

City of Wildwood Events www.cityofwildwood.com

Friday 5/16/2014 - Wildwood Concert (Smash Band) – Town Center Plaza
Saturday 6/7/2014 – Green Rock Trail Challenge – Greensfelder Park

Key Fob Door Locks

Last month I received an e-mail from a resident who wanted to know if thieves are utilizing the frequency your key fob emits when used to lock your car doors to unlock the doors once you walk away. Relevant to the question I did some checking and was told that a couple agencies throughout the country had made arrest of subjects who were in possession of a device that was capable of unlocking some vehicles. In the St. Louis area we have not made any arrest related to anyone using such a device or any seizures of any such device that I am aware of. The device I am referring to is not one that has anything to do with your key fob or any action on your part.

As I thought more about the question, I do not believe the frequency your key fob emits to lock the car could be used to unlock the vehicle, which is why there is a separate button on your key fob to perform the unlock action. The two frequencies emitted should be different as they are each setting off a different action being lock or unlock. If someone could capture the unlock frequency when you use a key fob, they would then have to follow you in the hopes you would place something of value that they wanted in your vehicle, leave the item in the vehicle and walk away. It would be a lot of time and energy to follow persons in the hope they would do something that they may not do. The majority of criminals I have encountered want to do as little as possible for a big payoff, not a lot of work for something that is unlikely to occur or just may not happen at all.

As technology in vehicles and everything else becomes more advanced, separating us from using keys or performing transactions in person with cash, for our convenience, there will always be a counterpart willing to use the same advances in technology to their benefit. We usually don't become aware of them until it happens and someone gets caught. At that point the original technology gets updated to prevent further incidents until someone figures out yet another way around the system. From there you and I both know the cycle just continues.

So my advice would be to not worry about things that may never happen, while being vigilant to safeguard yourself and your family with what you do have available. Pay attention to your

surroundings and follow your instincts, if you feel something is not right it probably isn't. Take appropriate precautions without letting the concern of becoming a victim overtake you.

When is a Construction Zone a Construction Zone?

With the current construction work zone on Highway 109 the question of when is a construction zone a construction zone seems to be getting asked quite a bit. It was asked at least 36 times in January, 41 times in February and 45 times in March. This is the minimum amount of questions I can account for by the number of citations that were issued for speeding in a work zone.

The answer to the question is that a construction zone is always a construction zone as long as it is marked a construction zone. This applies whether the workers are present or not. The speed limit is that which is posted as the construction zone speed. On Highway 109 the construction work zone speed is 35 mph.

If you travel Highway 109 between Highway 100 and Clayton Road, you would have noticed by now that entire stretch of roadway is a construction zone. This particular construction zone has six subdivision entry/exits, a business, an entry into Lafayette high school and construction to add an entrance for the new park. This construction is adding additional lanes, two roundabouts and a pedestrian foot bridge over the highway. With that said we not only have the normal flow of traffic through the construction zone, we have construction workers, construction machinery and materials, worker vehicles, barricades, new and constant changing of lanes and markers, as well as traffic entering and exiting from the side streets, business and parking lot with a potential for less visibility than when the roadway is not under construction. Work zones are changing the roadways width, grading, and lanes and sometimes adding a temporary grate or two that have to be driven over to keep a roadway open. These changes whether workers are present or not need to be met at a reduced speed so the driver can be prepared to address the changes, which explains why the construction work zone speed is in effect regardless of workers presence.

This applies to the construction work zone on Highway 109 as it does for any construction work zone.

If a driver exceeds the posted speed limit through an inactive work zone, the fine is determined by the miles per hour the driver was over the limit, plus an additional \$35 for it being a work zone. A second offense is the normal fine based on miles per hour over the speed limit, plus \$75 for it being a work zone.

If a driver exceeds the posted speed limit through an active work zone, meaning workers are present; the fine is determined by the miles per hour over the speed limit, plus an additional \$250.

If a driver exceeds the posted construction zone speed by 15 mph or more during an active work zone, passes in an active work zone or fails to stop for a flagman or other traffic control device erected for the zone, the citation becomes Endangerment of a Highway worker. This offense is assigned a court date where the fine or penalty is to be determined if found guilty of the offense.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Wildwood Precinct	636-458-9194	Crime Stoppers	866-371-8477
Non-Emergency 911	314-889-2341	Safe Schools Hotline	314-889-7233
Wildwood City Hall	636-458-0440	Drug Hotline	314-863-3673
Animal Control	314-726-6655	Neighborhood Preservation	314-615-4151