



News Release
Ashland Police Department
www.ashlandpolice.us
Douglas A. Goodman, Chief
Date: 1/5/2012

Ashland Police Department – *Personal Safety in the 21st Century*

The Ashland Police Department is hosting an educational event for the community called "*Personal Safety in the 21st Century.*"

Personal Safety in the 21st Century will be held on January 31st at the Ashland Church of God from 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

This event will feature 1st Sgt Robert Holland with the Virginia State Police High Technology Crimes Division. 1st Sgt Holland will speak about the following topics:

- Social Networking Safety
- Concerns with Inappropriate Texting
- Cyber Bullying

Here are some staggering statistics from Enough.org, which is a non-profit organization whose mission is "*Making the Internet Safer for Children and Families.*":

- Social Networking Safety
 - 15% of all Americans have never checked their social networking privacy and security settings.
 - More than 25% of Facebook users last year were under the age of 10.
 - Cases of Internet sex crimes against children involving social networking sites were more likely to result in a face-to-face meeting. This was true of 81% of Internet-initiated crimes involving a social networking site.
- Concerns with Inappropriate Texting
 - 24% of teens ages 14-17 have been involved in inappropriate texting either by cell phone or on the Internet
 - 44% of teens say it is common for explicit suggestive text messages to get shared with people other than the intended recipient.
 - 53% of teens who send explicit text messages are girls and 47% are boys
- Cyber Bullying
 - 66% of teens who have witnessed online cruelty have also witnessed others joining in; 21% say they have also joined in the harassment.
 - Only 7% of U.S. parents are worried about cyber bullying, even though 33% of teenagers have been victims of cyber bullying
 - More girls are cyberbullies than boys (59% girls and 41% boys).

With all three topics making the news across the United States the Ashland Police Department wants to educate the community in an effort to prevent others from becoming victims.

If you have questions about this event please contact Community Support Officer Perkins at (804) 412-0601.