

SEPTEMBER 2021



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

In 2021, National Child Passenger Safety week is September 19-25. The goal is to make sure children are in the correct car seat, that it's properly installed and used, and that it's registered with its manufacturer to ensure you receive important safety updates. Even though it is only recognized during one week a year, it's important information for you to know and pass along to those around you with children. More information is included below.

This RPD Community Newsletter also features information on the rise in catalytic converter thefts as well as remembering two of RPD's fallen officers. We hope you share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK IS RECOGNIZED IN SEPTEMBER

Every day across America, parents and caregivers drive young children around town, to and from school, daycare, and the store in car seats and boosters. Yet nearly half of all car seats are installed incorrectly, which means your child may not be traveling as safely as possible.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children between 1 and 13 years old. Properly securing children in safety seats goes a long way in keeping them safer.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reported 608 children died in traffic crashes in 2019 and 38% of those deaths involved children who weren't properly restrained.

And according to the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, 30 children under the age of 12 died last year in traffic accidents in the state.

In North Carolina, children younger than 5 and weighing fewer than 40 pounds must, by law, be in the back seat of vehicles with active passenger-side airbags. However, BuckleUPNC.org recommends children remain in the back seat until they are 12 or 13.

Under North Carolina law, when a child reaches age 8 or 80 pounds, a properly fitted seat belt can be used in place of a car seat or booster seat.

Parents and caregivers should make sure children use a rear-facing car seat from birth until ages 2-4; a forward-facing car seat until at least age 5; and a booster seat until the seat belt fits properly.

Children should remain in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, until they reach the maximum height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Check recommendations for choosing the right car seat and be sure you're up-to-date on the latest recalls.



You can locate a Permanent Checking station near you by logging onto buckleupnc.org.

Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS ON THE RISE

Over the past two years, the RPD has seen a rise in the thefts of catalytic converters due to the rise in cost of precious metals. Our detectives are working closely with investigators from other local law enforcement agencies, which have been experiencing similar increases in these thefts.

The following are some safety tips to help prevent thefts of catalytic converters:



- Park your vehicles in a closed garage, if possible.
- If you don't have a garage, park in a secured, fenced area or park in a well-lit area.
- Park near a video surveillance camera.
- Call 911 to report suspicious activity.
- Check on the vehicle frequently so if theft does occur you can narrow down the time it happened.
- Install a catalytic converter protection device.
- Set your vehicle security system to activate at the slightest vibration.
- If you have a doorbell camera/motion detector, set it up to send audible alerts to

your cell phone if motion is detected. Pay particular attention to alerts during the evening and early morning hours since this is when many of these thefts occur.

- If you discover a catalytic converter theft, try not to touch the lower body panels of the vehicle so that potential evidence may be preserved.

Videos on this subject featuring an RPD detective has been posted on our social media channels.

REMEMBERING DETECTIVE THOMAS CRABTREE AND OFFICER CHARLES PAUL IN SEPTEMBER

Detective Thomas Crabtree

End of Watch: September 1, 1922

On August 31, 1922, Detective Tom Crabtree was reporting for a surveillance assignment. As he approached Hillsborough Street near Glenwood Avenue, he heard two shots fired nearby. Detective Crabtree ran to the area and encountered a subject sitting in the rear of a taxicab, and when he stepped onto the running boards of the taxi, he was shot multiple times. Detective Crabtree had unknowingly happened upon Charles Klutz as he was robbing and assaulting a taxi driver. As Detective Crabtree fell to the ground mortally wounded, he was also struck by the taxi as the suspect fled the scene.



years and was survived by his son.

View Fallen Detective Crabtree's video [here](#).

Officer Charles Paul

End of Watch: September 10, 2002

On September 10, 2002, Officer Paul was running radar on the inner loop of the beltline. While attempting to stop a speeding vehicle, Officer Paul lost control of his motorcycle and struck the median barrier guardrail, suffering fatal injuries.

Officer Paul had been with the agency for seven years and is survived by his wife and daughter.



Detective Crabtree had been with the agency for nine View Fallen Officer Charles Paul's video [here](#).

Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.