

CANTON NEWS UPDATE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canton crime totals remain low

September 13, 2010, Canton, MI – Today, the FBI released its Uniform Crime Reporting statistics for 2009. Canton had the fifth lowest overall crime per 1,000 residents in the tri-county area of communities with 50,000 to 100,000 residents. Statistics show Canton with 19.89 crimes per 1,000 residents, coming in substantially lower than the area average of 29.81 crimes per 1,000 residents.

The FBI report breaks down crime into two categories: *Property Crimes* (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson), and *Violent Crimes* (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault). Canton averaged 18.22 property crimes per 1,000 residents, and 1.67 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.

“Canton continues to be one of the safest communities in the metro area, with our total overall crime far below that of the comparable community average, even during this past year of economic changes,” said Canton Public Safety Director Pat Nemecek. “Canton’s total number of crimes is rated the lowest when comparing tri-county communities with over 75,000 residents, as well as when comparing like communities in the entire State of Michigan. We believe our low crime rate is tied to the success of our proactive concept of community policing.”

Canton utilizes a proactive concept of Community Policing which holds each of the department’s four community policing teams accountable for their geographic area. These permanent assignments allow officers to build relationships with residents and business owners as well as develop extensive knowledge about the makeup of the area, thus assisting in communication between the officers, residents and business owners. Canton’s Community Watch program takes things one step further. Community Watch promotes residents and business owners to become active in their neighborhoods, looking out for each other, working on neighborhood problems and making themselves safer. Members learn how to work with law enforcement to prevent and reduce crimes in their community. The success of these programs is indicative of the commitment from the Canton community to ensure support for quality law enforcement.

The department also aggressively targets problem areas identified by the Crime Analysis Unit. This information provides command officers with the capability of focusing their efforts and strategies by utilizing directed patrols to saturate problem areas.

“Canton Police Department is committed to disseminating timely information to the residents of our township,” Nemecek said.

Information on relevant criminal activity is relayed to the public through sources such as crime alerts and crime maps on the Canton website and the Silent Partner Alert which delivers critical public safety information via email, text pager, cell phone or PDA. Residents can sign up to receive these free messages by visiting the Canton Public Safety website.

More information on Canton’s crime statistics, Community Policing and Community Watch program can be obtained at www.cantonpublicsafety.org or by contacting the Community Relations office at 734/394-5424.

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ATTACHMENT: 2009 Crime Comparison Chart – Metro Area Communities 50,000 – 100,000 Populations