McGruff offers some crime prevention tips for children

1. Call 911 when you need the police, an ambulance, or when there's a fire.

2. Don't open your door to a stranger. If Mom or Dad are home, have them come to the door. If you're home alone, say "Mom/Dad can't come to the door now. Come back later."

3. Don't tell strangers on the phone that Mom or Dad aren't home. Again, just say, "They can't come to the phone."

4. Don't leave doors and windows open or unlocked.

5. Never get close to a car if a stranger asks for help or directions. It is easy for a stranger to pull you into the car. Never hitchhike or take a ride from a stranger.

6. Don't take candy, money, or anything from a stranger.

7. When walking or playing after dark, stay where there are lights.

8. Always tell Mom or Dad where you are going and what time you will be home.

9. When walking somewhere, go with a friend if possible. Be sure to know how to get where you are going.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention.