

NEWS

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RELEASE

For Immediate Release – August 16, 2011, 1:30 pm

On Thursday, August 25th, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office is conducting a missing child exercise in the Town of Newbold. This exercise will take officers out into a neighborhood with a report of a missing child. Officers will respond to an actual house and conduct an investigation based on policy and national standards for missing children. The officers will also use community members, volunteer firefighters, along with Oneida County Emergency Management personnel to resolve this training drill. This will be a unique training experience for the officers to go out into the community and work through an actual scenario of a missing child.

The exercise will start off in the morning with guest speaker, Colleen Nick, a nationally recognized speaker on missing and abducted children. Colleen Nick is the mother of an abducted child. Colleen's daughter, Morgan Nick, was kidnapped in 1995 from a baseball game in Alma, Arkansas and is still missing to this day. Colleen Nick will speak to the officers as a mother of a missing child in an effort to educate and assist law enforcement with issues relating missing children investigations. Colleen is the founder of the Morgan Nick Foundation, which provides a support network to parents and families of all missing children.

The exercise will include officers from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Rhinelander Police Department, Minocqua Police Department, Woodruff Police Department, Three Lakes Police Department, Vilas County Sheriff's Office and the Wisconsin State Patrol. . The purpose of this regional exercise is to train officers how to successfully resolve all cases of missing children

with the ultimate goal of safely returning the child to the parents. The report of a missing child can be an emotionally charged investigation and this exercise will prepare local officers on techniques and tools to accomplish the task successfully.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office received a two thousand dollar grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Law Enforcement Services Training and Standards Bureau to offset some of the costs related to the training.

MEDIA CONTACT PERSON: If more information is needed please contact Lieutenant Jim Wood at 715.361.5100

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