

SALT LAKE COUNTY SAFETY MATTERS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

October is Domestic Violence awareness month. Although it may not appear to be a prevalent issue, statistics tell a different story. Between 2010 and 2011, Salt Lake County saw nearly 2,000 Domestic Violence cases go through the Criminal Justice system, including 14 D.V. related deaths. Here is some information to help you understand Domestic Violence.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK...

- **WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

Domestic Violence, according to Utah State Code, can be any criminal offense committed by one co-habitant against another. The term 'violence' does not necessarily mean physical harm, either. Domestic Violence includes crimes such as stalking, harassment, verbal abuse, or crimes against property. It's important to keep in mind, Domestic Violence has a strong likelihood of escalating. What may only be threats today could escalate to physical harm or even death in the future.

- **WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?**

Domestic Violence is so often assumed to be an abusive husband and a battered wife; but the truth is that anyone can be a victim. Gender, sexual orientation, or any other categories a person may fall in do not justify or excuse domestic abuse.

- **WHO DOES IT EFFECT?**

Many victims would rather pretend the problem doesn't exist, when in reality it may be very clear to other people. Co-workers, family and friends may already be aware of the situation. Be willing to listen to others, or to share your concerns. Stand up, Speak out and help STOP the violence.

- **HOW CAN I STOP IT?**

- 1) Recognize that there is problem.
- 2) Identify the appropriate avenue for help. (Police or counseling)
- 3) Create your safety plan, and put it into action
- 4) Organize your support system: Family, friends, advocates, and even the police can provide invaluable help in the process of ending domestic violence.

FOR HELP WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Call 1-800-897-LINK (5465): The statewide Domestic Violence info-line can direct victims to many free and confidential resources such as shelters and counseling

OR

In a Domestic Violence Emergency call **911**

