

SAFETY CORNER

Public Safety Newsletter

TOPIC: Respect For The US Flag At Events
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As the leader of the Mitchell Department of Public Safety Honor Guard Team, I've been given the liberty to stray from safety topics. Since we still have a couple parades left on Mitchell's Main Street, and the sporting seasons are upon us, this week's Safety Corner will focus on respect to the US Flag at these events.

Let's start with respect to the US Flag at parades.

At a parade, the only US Flag you are expected to render the courtesies due is the US Flag carried by the first honor guard team in the parade.

- Prior to the US Flag being 6 paces from your location, you should stand.
 - When the flag is 6 paces from your location, you should come to the position of attention, (your left arm at your side, and your feet together) and place your right hand above your heart, with your palm open.
 - If you are a male, and wearing a hat, you should remove the hat and hold it out above your left shoulder, with the hand that is above your heart. (as seen in the first picture below)
 - If you are in a uniform, you need not remove your hat, as you will be saluting instead, but we won't get into that in this article.
- You should remain standing with your hand above your heart until the flag has passed, and is 6 paces away from you.
- At this point, you can continue to enjoy the parade as you choose.



At a sporting event, when the National Anthem is played:

- The Star-Spangled Banner is designated the national anthem of the United States of America.

- When the US Flag is displayed:
 - All present, except those in uniform, should stand at attention, facing the US Flag, with their right hand over their heart, those in uniform will salute.
 - Again, men wearing a hat should remove their hat (unless in uniform) and hold the hat above their left shoulder with their right hand, while the right hand is over their heart.
 - You should place your hand over your heart when directed by the announcer, or at the first note of the National Anthem, and hold it above your heart to the last note of the National Anthem.
- If the US Flag is not displayed, all present should face the direction of the music, and act in the same manner they would, if the US Flag were displayed.

If you or your group have any questions about the US Flag, please feel free to contact me, jerryf@mitchelldps.com

If you would like to learn about certain topics please email cindy@mitchelldps.com and reference Safety Corner.

