



TRI-COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

of Minnesota, Inc.

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Serving Stearns, Benton and Sherburne Counties

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Use

August 9, 2005

Online tip reporting

Tri-County Crime Stoppers has added online tip reporting to its arsenal of tools for use by citizens to anonymously submit tips on unsolved crimes in the tri-counties of Benton, Stearns and Sherburne.

On Wednesday, August 9, 2006, Tri-County Crime Stoppers entered into an agreement with "TipSoft" to provide secure, online reporting capabilities. This program is integrated with our already successful web site, local and toll free phone numbers. TipSoft is the leading online reporting software used by crime stopper programs worldwide.

The general public has two options for submitting a tip through the TipSoft secure server.

- Users can access it directly from their internet browser at <https://www.tipsubmit.com>. This method does require the user to drill down several pages searching for Tri-County Crime Stoppers, and then requesting the secure reporting form.
- Another (better) method is for the user to link directly to the TipSoft program from one of the icons located on the Tri-County Crime Stoppers web site. That web site is located at www.tricountycrimestoppers.org. This link will call a reporting form directly from the TipSoft secure server, bypassing the drill down process.

When a tip is submitted, an encrypted message is sent to Tri-County Crime Stoppers, where it is then disseminated, in the same way that we handle phone tips, to one of the 33 law enforcement agencies serving in Stearns, Benton or Sherburne County.

Each person submitting a tip will receive these special instructions and a code number for them to use in tracking the status of their tip.

"Thank you for submitting your tip with us online. Please call between 8:30am and 4:00pm on weekdays to check the status of your tip or any time to provide additional information. Be sure and keep up with your assigned ID#. Please call 911 if this is an emergency!"

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