

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • October, 2023

Community Survey

The Community Survey is available at tiptonconstables.org. The purpose of the Community Survey is to gather the thoughts and opinions of the members of our community. These are presented to our government officials to inform them of the needs in our community. If you haven't taken the community survey, please consider taking it at: tiptonconstables.org/survey

Results of the survey will be presented here in the crime prevention newsletter. You can sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter at tiptonconstables.org

This Month's Driver Safety Tips

Tip #4 Buckle-up for Safety! Local statistics show a large percentage of fatal collisions involve an unrestrained occupant. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-9-603

Tip #5 Driving While Talking - It is best not to talk on a mobile or cellular phone while attempting to drive. Drivers should pull their vehicle off the roadway into a safe and legal parking area before using the phone. If simultaneous driving and phone use are required, drivers should utilize a hands-free system. When driving, your attention should be on the road ahead, not on distracting phone conversations. TCA – 55-10-205

Tip #6 Don't Drink and Drive! Never drive a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicants such as alcohol or prescription medication that warns against driving, operating machinery, etc. First offense DUI fine is \$350.00 up to \$1500.00 plus Court cost, loss of license for one year, probation for one year, DUI School. Party smart, use a designated driver, or call a taxi or friend. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-10-401

Tip #7 Take the time to arrive safely!! During the winter months, ice, frost and snow may form on your windshield overnight. Take the time to remove ALL of the ice, frost and snow from all of your windows. Do not scrape just a small area; clean the entire windshield and windows so you can see all areas of the roadway. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-10-205



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Points of Interest

- Ensure the cash money you carry and accept is valid currency instead of “movie prop” money.
- There are ways to prevent Catalytic Converter theft. View our Catalytic Converter theft prevention tips.
- Tailgate theft is big business, especially on newer trucks with backup cameras installed. View our tailgate theft prevention tips—with pictures!

Online Crime Prevention



Recognizing that technology is an integral part of our modern lives, here are four simple steps to provide small businesses, communities, and individuals with the guidance and tools they need to protect themselves online.

These tips help individuals, families and businesses protect themselves and our digital assets. These are safe online practices as an everyday activity we should all adopt, especially when connected.

- **Strong passwords:** Use passwords that are long, random, and unique to each account, and use a password manager to generate them and to save them.
- **Multifactor authentication:** Use MFA for all accounts that offer it. We need more than a password to protect our most important data, including email, financial accounts, and social media.
- **Recognize and report phishing:** Think before you click! Be cautious of unsolicited emails, texts, or calls asking you for personal information. Resist the urge to click on these links and don't click on links or open attachments from unknown sources.
- **Update software:** Enable automatic updates on software so the latest security patches keep our devices continuously protected.

Catalytic Converter Theft

The #1 way to protect your vehicles Catalytic Converter is to park your vehicle(s) inside a garage or in a secure side yard. If you must park your vehicle in the driveway, motion detector lights or continuous lights illuminating your driveway may be a deterrent. Also, getting a vehicle motion detector alarm might help.

Look for suspicious people and vehicles in your neighborhood. If you see a suspicious person under a vehicle, chances are they are attempting to steal the Catalytic Converter. Get the suspect(s) and/or suspect vehicle descriptions if possible. Write down the license plate of a suspicious vehicle if you can safely. If the crime is in progress, call 911.

Tailgate Theft—Prevention Tips

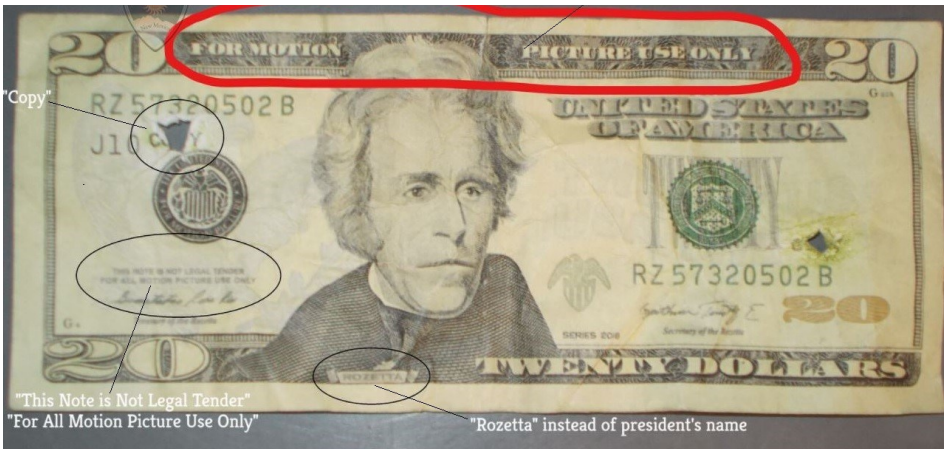
If you own a newer truck, most likely its tailgate is designed to be removed effortlessly within minutes. 70% of the tailgates stolen have a backup camera (which greatly increases the value of the tailgate). Of the tailgates stolen, about 50% are Fords, 20% are Chevys, 15% are Dodges and 15% are Toyotas. The average cost to replace a tailgate is \$1,500 to \$2,000, but it can be as high as \$3,000. These thieves are selling the stolen tailgates on the internet or directly to dismantlers. The thieves are getting \$300 - \$500 for a stolen tailgate, but can get as much as \$800.

Protection Measures

There are (3) viable methods to protect your tailgate, with the 3rd option below being the best.

- 1) LOCK IT - Keep your tailgate locked (if equipped). Thieves are not attempting to defeat locked tailgates, but some truck models don't have a tailgate lock so one of the below methods will be required.
- 2) ALARM IT – An Aftermarket Alarm can be installed. When your tailgate is opened, the alarm will sound.
- 3) WELD IT (Best Option) – Get the tailgate bushing (U connector) and the cable connectors welded up. The tailgate can still go up and down, but it CAN NOT be removed.





Movie Money - Fake Money That Looks Real!

“Movie Prop” money is circulating in the local area. The fake money is found all over Amazon and ebay. It’s common for movie prop money to be in larger denominations including \$50 and \$100 bills. Movie prop money can have the same look as actual currency but, in most instances, does not have the same texture as actual cash. Prop money is intended to be used on camera so there is no need for the texture to feel like legitimate cash.

Often, print on movie prop money usually reads:

- “For Motion Picture Use Only” along the top, front-face of the bill. The word, “Copy” is normally printed on both sides of the bill.
- “This Note Is Not Legal Tender” or “For Motion Picture Use Only” is normally printed on at least one side of the bill.
- Often times the president’s name is omitted or changed.
- Serial numbers are often the same on all movie prop money.

It is not illegal to possess movie prop money, however, using movie prop money or any illegal currency could be classified as a felony offense or a federal crime depending on its use.

Anyone who receives suspected prop money or illegally manufactured bills as actual currency should call police immediately. We are encouraging merchants and residents to carefully inspect all denominations of currency before completing a cash transaction.



Are you concerned about church safety?

Our Tennessee Constable for Munford is offering FREE church safety & security classes for our local church leaders. Please influence them to visit tiptonconstables.org for class schedules and offerings to make sure our community is prepared.

Tips for preventing Catalytic Converter theft

- Get your Catalytic Converter etched with your VIN number or your name.
- Muffler shops are offering creative ways to protect your Catalytic Converter. They weld on metal to make it difficult for the Catalytic Converter to be removed. The cost is often less than your insurance deductible and definitely less than the full replacement cost
- There are devices on the market that will clamp/go around your Catalytic Converter. Devices are often more expensive than welding extra metal, but for some this is the option they prefer.

Core Values

Integrity

Service before self

Excellence

Compassion

What's a Constable?

Constables operate as individually elected officers at no cost to the citizens or governments of the county. Constables supply their vehicles, fuel, and equipment. They stand ready to aid or assist all citizens and/or agencies within the county. The Tennessee Constable is a non salaried office!

The mission of the Constable's Office is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Tipton County by working collaboratively with area law enforcement, General Sessions court, and our community to prevent crime, enforce the law, increase mobility and target violent offenders for prosecution.

They supplement the county Sheriff's Office and local Police Departments. Constables are also at the disposal of the various fire departments, EMS units, and rescue squads as well as any state or federal agency which might have use of their services.

Tipton County Constables

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