

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • May, 2024

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

April Driver Safety Tips

Tip#17 Show your pet you care. Do not drive with an unrestrained pet in your vehicle. An animal's behavior is sometimes unpredictable and could cause distractions to drivers. Unrestrained pets could be launched during an accident causing injury to the occupants and the pet. A pet placed in the lap of an occupant could cause death to the occupant or pet if and when an airbag is deployed. Don't let pets interfere with the driver.

Tip#18 It may be you if you see blue. When a police officer attempts to stop your vehicle:

- Immediately slow your vehicle and pull to the ride side of the roadway and come to a complete stop.
- Stay in your vehicle unless the officer asks you to get out.
- Roll down ALL your windows and place both hands back on the steering wheel.
- Do not make any sudden or unexpected movements.
- Listen for instructions from the officer(s).
- Do not become argumentative with the officer. If you feel you have been unjustly stopped or accused, argue your case before the court and not on the side of the road.

Tip#19 Be Prepared. Always keep a first-aid kit and an emergency travel kit in your vehicle. A well-prepared driver and a well-equipped vehicle could bridge the gap between notification and arrival of emergency workers on the scene. Supplies should include a first aid kit, blanket, fire extinguisher, etc.



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Points of Interest

- Summer is the right time to upgrade your home security.
- Working together with a Neighborhood Watch can keep us safer.
- They know how to fool us into clicking and providing personal details.
- What if a single driver safety tip could save your life? See the Arrive Alive series on Facebook.

Enhancing Home Security this Summer



Starting a Neighborhood Watch

A neighborhood watch program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together and in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. Neighborhood watch groups have regular meetings to plan how they will accomplish their specific goals and leaders with assigned responsibilities. Neighborhood watch empowers citizens and communities to become active in emergency preparedness, as well as the fight against crime and community disasters.

Would you like to start a neighborhood watch program on your street?

We will help you...Please gather a list of at least 8 individuals in your neighborhood that would commit to working towards your neighborhood watch and let's schedule a meeting to help you get started.

As summer approaches, many of us look forward to vacations, outdoor activities, and a slower pace of life. However, this season also marks an uptick in residential burglaries, as homes are often left empty for prolonged periods. Enhancing your home security is crucial to ensuring that your summer memories are not marred by an unfortunate incident. Here are practical tips to secure your home against potential intruders during the warmer months:

- 1. Strengthen Entry Points:** The first step in fortifying your home is to secure the entry points. Ensure all doors and windows have sturdy locks and consider upgrading to smart locks that offer more control and monitoring capabilities. Reinforce sliding doors with additional locks or a sturdy bar that blocks the track.
- 2. Install a Home Security System:** A comprehensive home security system is a powerful deterrent against burglaries. Systems that include home security cameras, motion detectors, and window sensors can provide extensive coverage. Many modern systems also offer remote monitoring through mobile apps, allowing you to keep an eye on your home no matter where you are in the world.
- 3. Use Automated Lighting:** Criminals often target homes that appear unoccupied. Automated lighting can give the impression that someone is home, deterring potential burglars. Use smart light bulbs that can be programmed or controlled remotely to switch on and off in patterns that simulate normal usage.
- 4. Secure the Perimeter:** Your property's perimeter is your first line of defense. Maintain clear visibility by trimming bushes and trees that could provide cover for burglars. Install motion-sensor lights around the perimeter of your home, especially at entrances and dark corners. Consider a fence or gate that can be locked at night for added security.
- 5. Adopt a 'Lived-In' Look:** Ask a neighbor to collect your mail, park in your driveway occasionally, and put out your trash on collection days while you're away. These simple actions can significantly enhance the appearance of an occupied home, making it less attractive to burglars.
- 6. Be Social Media Savvy:** While it's tempting to share your vacation moments in real-time on social media, doing so can also signal to burglars that your house is empty. Save the posts for after you return and make sure your social media settings are private to limit information access to strangers.
- 7. Valuable Safekeeping:** Invest in a good quality safe for your valuables and important documents. In the event of a break-in, this can prevent loss of precious items and personal information.
- 8. Join or Form a Neighborhood Watch:** Active neighborhood watch programs are great for preventing crime. They promote communication between neighbors and establish a sense of community, making it easier to spot and report suspicious activity.

By implementing these strategies, you can enjoy a more secure home this summer, keeping your space safe and giving yourself peace of mind while you relax and enjoy the season. Remember, the key to effective home security is layers; the more barriers you put between a burglar and your valuables, the safer your home is likely to be.

Recognizing and Preventing Phishing Scams

In today's connected world, phishing scams are a prevalent threat that target individuals and organizations alike, aiming to steal sensitive information such as passwords, credit card details, and other personal data. Phishing typically involves fraudulent communication, often an email, that appears to come from a legitimate source. The goal is to trick the recipient into making a security mistake, such as clicking on a malicious link or downloading an infected attachment. Here's how you can recognize and prevent these insidious scams and protect your digital footprint.

1. Know the Signs of Phishing: Phishing attempts often share common characteristics. Look out for these red flags:

- **Urgency:** Messages claiming urgent action is required, such as verifying accounts or clearing up a supposed issue with your data.
- **Too Good To Be True Offers:** Promises of unexpected money or incredibly lucrative deals.
- **Hyperlinks and Attachments:** Unexpected requests to click on links or download files.
- **Spelling and Grammar Mistakes:** Professional organizations typically proof-read their communications.
- **Unusual Sender Email Addresses or URLs:** Even if a name is recognizable, the email address might be off by a letter or use a suspicious domain.

2. Verify the Source: Before responding to any unsolicited emails, verify the source. Contact the company using a phone number or website address you know is genuine. Do not use the contact details provided in the message, as these may be part of the scam.

3. Think Before You Click: Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown or unsolicited sources. Hover over links to see where they actually lead (without clicking) to ensure they direct you to legitimate websites.

4. Update and Secure Your Systems: Keep your operating systems, browsers, and antivirus software up to date to protect against the latest threats. Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible to add an additional layer of security beyond just a password.

5. Educate Yourself and Others: Stay informed about the latest phishing techniques. Scammers continually refine their strategies, so awareness is your first line of defense. Share information with friends, family, and colleagues to protect your wider network.

6. Use Security Tools: Utilize email filters that can help block spam and potentially malicious emails. Many email services already come with security features that help detect phishing attempts.

7. Report Phishing: If you receive a phishing email, report it to the appropriate authorities, as well as the organization that was impersonated in the scam. In the U.S., you can report phishing emails to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov or forward the emails to the Anti-Phishing Working Group at reportphishing@apwg.org

By understanding how to recognize the signs of phishing and implementing preventive measures, you can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft and fraud. Regular vigilance and updated security practices are essential as phishing scams grow more sophisticated. Stay cautious and always think twice before acting on suspicious emails, as the best defense is a proactive approach to your digital security.

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.

Arrive Alive

What if I could give you a piece of information that could reduce your chances of being involved in a motor vehicle crash 10-fold? On our Facebook page, we just started a 10-part series which aims to elevate community awareness and impart crucial traffic safety tips to prevent motor vehicle crashes.

Designed to cater to drivers of all ages and experience levels, this campaign not only highlights common driving hazards but also offers practical advice on how to avoid them. Join us in our commitment to making our roads safer. Share these tips with your friends and family, and let's make sure everyone Arrives Alive.



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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