

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • September, 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 #8 "Road Closed" means you too. Do not drive on a road that has been closed. Roads are typically closed due to hazardous conditions, construction, or safety concerns. Failure to comply with posted "Road Closed" signs could result in jail time, loss of driving privileges, and/or a large fine. Tennessee Law TCA – 39-17-108

Tip #9 Drive Right. While driving on a multi-lane roadway, drivers must use the right lane to travel in unless passing slower vehicles, turning left, or yielding to traffic conditions or emergencies. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-115

Tip #10 Center Lanes Turns Only. Center turn lanes are to be used only for turning vehicles. This lane is not designed for passing, nor shall a vehicle enter the turn lane more than a safe distance from the intended turning point. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-140

Tip#11 Inclement weather Creates Emergencies (ICE) - Be aware of weather conditions and slow down well in advance of stopping point when driving on ice or packed snow. During thawing and freezing weather, be alert for slippery areas on bridges and sheltered areas. (Tennessee State Driver's Manual) Four-wheel drive vehicles have no braking advantages.

Tip#12 Don't drive blind. The best advice for driving in fog is "DON'T". If you must drive in fog, reduce your speed and drive with lights on low beam. (Tennessee State Driver's Manual) The white fog line on the right side of the road can be used for a guide, however, use caution!!



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Points of Interest

- How to complete online purchases in person—staying safe.
- Craigslist scams are alive and well.
- When it comes to firearms, safety is our first priority.
- School zone safety is everyone's responsibility.



Buying or Selling Online

So, you find an item on Craigslist or Facebook Market or LetGo and you REALLY want to buy it. Or you have something you need to sell.

You negotiate the deal, and now... it's time to meet the seller (or buyer), but you want to be safe.

Consider meeting in the parking lot of the front of any law enforcement agency. If the other party doesn't want to meet at that secured location, then it's time for you to reconsider the transaction.

Craigslist Scams: Alive & Well

If you are in the market for a rental property - looking on Craigslist can be a great resource, but BEWARE!

Take extra steps to ensure the property is in fact being listed by the true owner or representative of the owner. Never utilize email exclusively. Speak to someone on the phone and get their location and then verify.

Do You Know Your Vehicle Locks?

Many people are unaware of how their vehicle locks react to the vehicle being turned off. Or for that matter, the vehicle being put into gear or park. Many vehicles have an automatic unlock when the vehicle is placed in Park! This can put you at risk of having someone open your car door while you are inside. If you park and are going to be inside of your vehicle for any length of time, check the locks. It's better to be safe than sorry!

It's Time To Clean Out Your Wallet

Our wallets (and purses) can be the collection point for just about every credit card, gift card or anything else that will fit. Unfortunately, when we lose that wallet or purse, all those items go as well.

Bank and credit cards can be cancelled, but gift cards are gone for good and ID cards (such as SS cards) can be an open door to much greater theft - Identity Theft. This can turn your life upside down.

- Make a point to keep gift cards at home until you are ready to use them.
- Never carry your PIN (personal identification number) or passwords with you. If you must have that information with you, then disguise it. Try making a fake number to hide the real one - like a work phone number.

Example: Your PIN is 1234 and your work phone is 555-0000. On a slip of paper, write the number 551-2534. Make it something you can easily remember which digits make up the PIN.

Firearms Safety

Many of us enjoy our 2nd amendment freedoms. As part of being a responsible gun owner, it's important to remember that safety is our first priority. Here are a few tips to remember:

- Keep your firearm in a safe location (if children are inside of the home, always use a gun lock and/or a safe)
- Teach responsibility and safety to your family
- Always treat a firearm as if it is loaded
- Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction
- Never use alcohol before or while handling a firearm
- Have a good understanding of how your firearm operates



Don't Compete... Share the street.

Auto Theft: Don't be a Victim

With push-button start vehicles all the rage, there are greater opportunities for criminals to steal vehicles. The convenience of not having to use a key comes with a greater responsibility of keeping those fobs safe and OUT of the vehicle when not in use. It's also a good idea to keep the fob separate from your wallet. If you happen to lose your wallet, the fob is there for the criminal to use.

So you have an older vehicle? You can still be a target for an auto thief. Never leave your keys in the car. Don't keep a spare set in the console. If the car is left unlocked, "handle flippers" will find those keys and take the car. Always lock your doors. And if you have the resources, invest in a steering wheel lock. A little extra protection now can prevent a theft later.



Parking Lot Prowlers

An increase in people walking thru parking lots occurs this time of year. And they aren't shopping in the stores - they are looking for an opportunity.

- Never leave valuables in plain view
- Hide chargers and accessories that could indicate electronics are inside
- Remove garage door openers, key cards or other keys
- Park in well-lit areas at night
- Always keep your head up and watch people - and
- If You See Something, Say Something!

School Zone Safety—Everyone's Responsibility

You've probably noticed all the school busses, active school zones, and students who are walking and riding bikes to school. Here are a few thoughts for both parents and motorists.

Parents:

- Know your student's route to school (take a "test walk" with your child)
- Bike riders should always wear helmets and you should also know their route
- Bus riders should stay in bus stop area, no playing while waiting for the bus
- Make sure your child knows the dangers of talking to strangers - be alert for anyone hanging around a bus stop or following your student on their route to and from school

Motorists:

- Be alert for school zones and watch for children walking and riding bikes
- Watch for school buses. Flashing red lights indicate the bus is stopping to load or unload children. State law requires motorists to stop. DO NOT attempt to pass while lights are flashing
- When backing out of a driveway or garage, be alert for children darting past your driveway
- Be the extra set of eyes looking out for anyone suspicious hanging around bus stops or any suspicious activity. We all can do our part to keep our children safe this school year.

Speeding in Your Neighborhood? You Can Help.

- Set an example to your neighbors and drive slowly. Sometimes, it's the residents in the neighborhood who are the speeders.
- If you see street racing or aggressive drivers, report it immediately to help prevent anyone being injured.
- Drivers swerving, weaving or driving erratically should be reported immediately.

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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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month?**

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