

# Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • April, 2024

## Community Survey

The Community Survey is available at [tiptonconstables.org](https://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](https://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](https://tiptonconstables.org)

## April Driver Safety Tips

**Tip#13 If you don't see it, you can't miss it.** The basic rule for safe night driving is to never outrun your headlights. Stopping distance should always be less than your sight distance. (Tennessee State Driver's Manual) Traveling at 40 miles per hour, it takes approximately 70 feet to come to a stop. State Law mandates that your headlights be adjusted so that objects are visible 500 feet in front of your vehicle. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-9-401

**Tip#14 STOP SIGNS do not mean "Slight Tap On Pedal"** - When you come to a STOP sign, come to a complete stop and look both ways before proceeding. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-109

**Tip#15 Wait for the Sign.** Speed limits begin where the sign is located. If you see a sign showing a faster speed, wait until you're at the sign before speeding up. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-152

**Tip#16 Move away from Emergency and Service Vehicles.** Tennessee State Law requires a driver, when traffic conditions allow, to merge their vehicle into the left lane of traffic on multiple lane roads when workers, such as emergency personnel (i.e. Police, Fire, EMS), construction workers, tow trucks, and maintenance vehicles, are present at the right side of the road. If unable to merge to the left, or if you are on a two-lane road, slow down. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-132



## Inside this issue

Driver Safety Tips.....	1
Home Invasions .....	2
Carjacking Risk .....	2
Senior Scams.....	3
Internet Safety.....	3
Church Security .....	3
What is a Constable? .....	4

## Points of Interest

- We've listed some practical tips for preventing home invasions inside this issue..
- Do you know what to do if a carjacking occurs?
- Don't Let Scammers Fleece Your Nest Egg!
- Learn how to protect your little ones with internet safety tips.

## Carjacking Prevention and Response



### Preventing Home Invasions

- Make your home look occupied at all times. Keep lights on timers, have landscaping maintained, and ask neighbors to keep an eye out when you're away.
- Secure all entry points. Install quality deadbolt locks on exterior doors and locks on windows. Reinforce entry points like doors and sliding glass doors.
- Keep garage doors closed. An open garage door is an open invitation for intruders. Use auto-close features or unplug the powered option.
- Illuminate the exterior. Install motion sensor lights around your home's perimeter to deter lurkers. Keep areas well-lit at night.
- Don't leave spare keys outside. Fake rocks, under mats, etc. are easy hiding places for burglars to check. Leave a spare with a trusted neighbor or friend instead.

While carjackings are relatively rare crimes overall, they can have devastating consequences for the victims involved. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is through awareness and proactive preventive measures. Use these tips to deter carjackers and know how to respond if an incident does occur:

#### Prevention Is Key

- Always keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows rolled up, whether driving or parked. Make it a habit to double check doors when leaving or approaching your vehicle.
- Be alert when stopped at intersections, trapped in traffic, or slowed by road construction. These are prime situations for carjackers to strike.
- Avoid arriving or leaving alone in isolated parking lots, garages, service areas, or other deserted locations. Go with a friend or ask for a security escort when possible.
- Have your keys ready well before you reach your car. Scan the area as you approach for any suspicious persons or activities.

#### What to Do If Confronted

- Don't resist if the carjacker is armed or you fear for your life. Your safety is the top priority – cars can be replaced.
- Toss your keys or valuables away from you and the vehicle to avoid going after them.
- Try to get a good look at each carjacker and make mental notes of their appearance to relay to police.
- Follow all instructions, avoid eye contact, and don't make any sudden movements to provoke an escalation.

#### If a Carjacking Occurs

- Call the police immediately and report the crime, even if uninjured. Provide all details you can remember about the suspects and vehicle.
- If your keys are stolen with the car, have locks changed wherever that keyring works – home, office, other vehicles, etc.
- Ask about getting new ID documents and report credit cards stolen to cancel them right away.
- Write down a statement about the incident while details are fresh to aid investigations.
- Consider counseling if severely traumatized, as carjackings can cause aftereffects like anxiety.

By taking common sense preventive steps and knowing how to respond, you can help deter carjackers and escape an attack unharmed if one does occur. Always be aware of your surroundings and suspicious persons when entering or exiting vehicles.

## Protecting Seniors from Financial Fraud

Seniors are often targeted by unscrupulous scammers looking to exploit them financially through deceitful tactics. As retirement funds become fixed incomes, it's increasingly important for older adults and their loved ones to be aware of common frauds and take steps to prevent devastating losses.

### Popular Senior Scams

- Medicare/Health Insurance Fraud - Scammers claim to be Medicare representatives and attempt to obtain Social Security and bank account numbers, walking seniors into identity theft.
- Telemarketing/Phone Scams - Con artists make unsolicited phone calls with high-pressure tactics to trick seniors into bogus investment schemes or to send cash to pay fees to claim "prize winnings."
- Grandparent Scams - Criminals pose as panicked grandchildren claiming to be in legal trouble and in need of wired money for bail, hospital bills, etc.
- Charity Scams - Fake organizations with names similar to legitimate charities solicit donations from generous seniors over the phone or internet.
- Home Repair Fraud - Shady contractors demand upfront fees for home repairs or improvement work they never intend to complete.

### Prevention Checklist

- Never give out personal or financial information to unsolicited callers, visitors, or on unencrypted websites.
- Thoroughly vet charities before giving by checking charity monitoring services. Don't feel pressured to donate on the spot.
- Don't let strangers into your home and be cautious about hiring unsolicited contractors. Always verify licenses and references.
- Set up a dedicated, unpublished phone number to make it easier to spot illegal robocalls.
- Review financial statements regularly and report any questionable charges or transactions.
- Sign up for free credit reports annually to watch for signs of identity theft.

Getting Help—Seniors who think they've been victimized should immediately call their bank and local police non-emergency number. You can also file formal complaints:

- Report telemarketing scams to the Federal Trade Commission
- Submit mail fraud reports to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Contact your state's consumer protection office about home repair fraud

Safeguarding retirement savings is crucial as living costs rise. By staying vigilant against financial fraudsters, seniors can prevent painful monetary losses that could jeopardize their golden years.

## 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](http://tiptonconstables.org) for class schedules and offerings to make sure our community is prepared.

## Internet Safety for Kids and Teens

- Enforce strict privacy settings on all social media and online accounts. Don't allow personal information like phone numbers, emails, or location services to be publicly visible.
- Use parental controls and monitoring software to limit online time, restrict inappropriate sites, and track online activity. But don't rely solely on these tools.
- Teach kids to never share passwords or personal details online, even with friends whose accounts may have been hacked or compromised.
- Insist that internet-connected devices stay in common family areas where activity can be monitored, rather than behind closed bedroom doors.
- Establish rules about sharing photos/videos and what is appropriate content that can be posted online. Check accounts regularly.
- Warn kids about the dangers of online predators and cyber bullying. Create an open dialogue so they feel safe reporting any incidents.
- Enable security software like firewalls and antivirus programs to prevent hacking, malware infections, and identity theft.

## 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

---

Darren Smith  
Tennessee Constable, Munford  
Box 1488  
Munford, TN 38058  
tiptonconstable@gmail.com

**Would you like a copy of this  
crime prevention newsletter  
sent to your email every  
month?**

**Register at  
tiptonconstables.org**

**Email recipients get  
additional, exclusive content!**

