

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter - October 2024



To unsubscribe, hit reply and type STOP and I will personally delete you from the list. Thank you, and I look forward to your feedback on this month's newsletter.

October Driver Safety Tips

Tip#34 “U” Turns are prohibited except on divided highways. Tennessee State law states that you may not make a U-turn at any intersection controlled by a traffic light or police officer or any location where a U-turn is prohibited by signs or markings. It is also illegal to make a U-turn on an Interstate Highway, two lanes or four-lane road where there is no median. Emergency crossovers are for emergency vehicles and highway maintenance crews only. (Tennessee State Driver’s Manual)

Tip#35 Improper Lane Changes - Turning vehicles are required to merge into the proper lane of travel that is closest to their point of entry into the turn. Drivers should not maneuver their vehicle across multiple lanes of travel upon first entering a new roadway. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-140

Tip#36 Be Nice! Be courteous to other motorists. Use caution and be willing to yield to other vehicles. It is better to have patience and use restraint than to cause conflict, or worse, a collision. Always allow extra driving time so you don’t feel rushed. Drivers sometimes make mistakes, even you!

Are you ready for a disaster?

Disasters can strike without warning, from severe storms and floods to wildfires and earthquakes. In moments of crisis, knowing how to respond quickly can mean the difference between safety and catastrophe. While professional emergency responders are critical during disasters, there may be

times when help is delayed or resources are overwhelmed. That's where disaster preparedness and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) come into play.

What is Disaster Preparedness?

Disaster preparedness refers to the proactive steps individuals, families, and communities take to be ready for emergencies. Whether it's having an emergency kit at home or knowing an evacuation route, being prepared can reduce the fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. In a nutshell, it's about having the skills, supplies, and plans in place to protect yourself and your loved ones when an emergency happens.

Why Is It Important to Prepare?

Disasters Can Happen Anytime, Anywhere - Natural and man-made disasters can strike with little to no warning. By preparing in advance, you give yourself and your family the best chance to react quickly and safely.

Emergency Response May Be Delayed - First responders are trained to handle disasters, but in large-scale events, they may be overwhelmed or delayed. Being prepared ensures you can act in the critical moments before help arrives.

Protecting Loved Ones - Having a plan in place allows you to focus on what's most important: keeping your family safe. You'll be better equipped to evacuate, communicate, and stay safe during any emergency.

What Can You Do to Prepare?

Create an Emergency Plan - Sit down with your family and discuss how you'll respond to different types of disasters. Establish meeting points, create a communication plan, and make sure everyone knows how to turn off utilities (gas, electricity, water) in case of an emergency.

Build an Emergency Kit - Assemble a basic emergency kit that includes essentials like food, water, medications, first aid supplies, flashlights, and important documents. Keep it easily accessible and ensure it's stocked for every family member, including pets.

Stay Informed - Make sure you have access to real-time information during a disaster. Sign up for local emergency alerts and keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio on hand to stay informed about evacuation orders, weather updates, and road closures.

How CERT Plays a Critical Role

In addition to individual preparedness, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a crucial program that trains volunteers to assist in disaster response when professional first responders are not immediately available. CERT is a national program that equips ordinary citizens with the skills they need to support their communities in the event of a disaster.

What Does CERT Offer?

Training in Basic Emergency Skills - CERT participants learn practical, life-saving skills such as fire suppression, first aid, light search and rescue, and disaster psychology. These skills help volunteers become valuable assets in the critical minutes after an emergency occurs. Take the CERT basic class with us at Atoka City Hall on November 9th and 23rd. The two day program will teach you all of these critical skills.

Organized Community Response - During a disaster, CERT teams can be activated to help manage crowds, provide first aid, and assist emergency responders with non-critical tasks. The program builds a framework for coordinated community response, maximizing safety and efficiency.

Neighborhood Resilience - By participating in CERT, you're not only protecting your own family but also contributing to the safety of your entire community. The more people who are trained and ready to respond, the more resilient your neighborhood becomes during a disaster.

Why Join CERT?

- **Hands-on Training:** CERT gives you the confidence to act when others may be unsure or panicked. Knowing how to respond can make all the difference.
- **Community Support:** When disaster strikes, neighbors are often the first on the scene. CERT creates a network of trained volunteers who can immediately begin helping until professional responders arrive.
- **Empowerment:** Disaster preparedness can feel overwhelming, but CERT empowers you with knowledge and practical skills that you can use in real-life situations.

How to Get Involved

Joining CERT is simple. The Tipton County team offers free CERT training programs that are open to anyone interested in learning how to help during disasters. The training is often conducted over two Saturdays and includes both classroom instruction and hands-on practice.

Hit reply to this email to get started!

Be Part of the Solution

Disasters are unpredictable, but your preparedness doesn't have to be. Taking the time to prepare today can save lives tomorrow. By learning the skills provided through disaster preparedness efforts and participating in CERT, you can be a vital resource for your family, neighbors, and entire community.

In times of crisis, we're stronger together. Join CERT, prepare your family, and help build a safer, more resilient community for everyone.

Create Your Recovery Kit

- Generators
- Disinfectants
- Senior Citizen Supplies (Diapers/Bed Pads, Etc.)
- Scrub Brushes
- Mops
- Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Cleaning Rags
- Baby Wipes/Diapers
- Dish Towels
- Clorox
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Sheets
- Hand Sanitizers/Lotions
- First-Aid supplies
- Chapstick
- Work and Cleaning Gloves
- Duct Tape
- Brushes & Brooms

- Rubber Boots
- P-100 Masks
- Paper Towel
- Aluminum Foil
- Dish Soap
- Paper Plates and Cups
- Food Storage Containers
- Ziploc Bags
- Large Garbage Bags
- Plastic Eating Utensils
- Tool Kits
- Tire Repair Kits
- Empty 5-gallon Gas Cans
- Tarps
- Mosquito Repellent
- Rain Gear
- Sunscreen
- Plastic Sheeting
- Plastic Tarps
- Shovels
- Toothbrush

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Personal Hygiene Products

Dry Food/Hydration

- Gallons of Water
- Sports Drinks
- Bottled Water
- Dry Cereal
- Canned Fruits
- Ready to eat Canned Soup/Meat
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Bread
- Bananas
- Apples
- Oranges
- Crackers
- Nuts
- Granola Bars
- Energy Bars



#yourconstablecares



Stay Informed & Get Connected

For the latest updates on community safety, crime prevention tips, and local events, we encourage you to visit the Tipton Constables Facebook page. Stay informed about the efforts of our dedicated law enforcement officers as they work tirelessly to keep our community safe. By following the page, you'll gain access to valuable information, timely alerts, and opportunities to engage with your local constables. Join the Tipton Constables Facebook community today and be an active participant in fostering a safer, more connected neighborhood. Your involvement makes a difference!

[Crime Prevention Information](#)

October Crime Prevention Tips

As October rolls in, many of us are gearing up for the fun of fall festivals, Halloween, and cooler weather. However, it's also a time when crime tends to rise, especially property crimes like burglaries and thefts. With the nights getting longer and homes often left unoccupied during weekend outings or trick-or-treating, it's essential to take proactive steps to protect your property and your community. Here are some key crime prevention tips to keep in mind this October.

1. Home Security: Light Up the Night

One of the most effective deterrents against crime is good lighting. Burglars are less likely to target a well-lit home, and lighting also makes it easier for neighbors to notice suspicious activity.

- **Install Motion-Activated Lights:** Place motion-activated floodlights around your property, especially at entry points like doors and windows. This will alert you—and your neighbors—when someone is near your home.
- **Keep Your Porch Light On:** Even if you're not home, leaving your porch light on signals that the house may be occupied. Consider using smart light bulbs or timers to automate your lighting schedule.
- **Halloween Safety:** If you're leaving your house during Halloween festivities, make sure your home is still well-lit. This not only helps deter crime but also ensures trick-or-treaters can safely approach your home.

2. Secure Doors and Windows

One of the simplest yet most overlooked crime prevention measures is ensuring that your doors and windows are securely locked. Many burglaries happen through unlocked or poorly secured entrances.

- **Upgrade Locks:** Consider installing deadbolts on all exterior doors. Sliding doors should have a security bar or dowel in the track to prevent forced entry.
- **Reinforce Windows:** Use window locks or security film on ground-floor windows to make them more difficult to break.
- **Install Smart Locks:** For added security, install smart locks that allow you to lock or unlock your doors remotely. You can also check to make sure all doors are secured when you're away from home.

3. Beware of Package Theft

With online shopping on the rise, package theft is becoming a growing problem, especially during the holiday season that kicks off in October.

- **Schedule Deliveries:** Try to schedule deliveries for times when someone will be home to receive the package. If that's not possible, have packages delivered to a secure location like a workplace, a neighbor's house, or an Amazon locker.
- **Install a Doorbell Camera:** A doorbell camera can act as both a deterrent and a tool for catching thieves. It allows you to monitor your front door in real-time and records footage that can be helpful to authorities in the event of theft.

- Request Signature on Delivery: When ordering valuable items, opt for “signature required” on delivery. This ensures that the package won’t be left unattended.

4. Neighborhood Watch: Strengthen Your Community

One of the most powerful tools in crime prevention is a well-organized and active neighborhood watch program. As a community, neighbors can work together to keep an eye out for suspicious activity and create a safer environment for everyone.

- Get to Know Your Neighbors: A strong community is a safer community. Exchange contact information with your neighbors, so you can easily alert each other to suspicious activity.
- Coordinate Halloween Patrols: For added security on Halloween, consider organizing a neighborhood patrol to watch for any suspicious behavior. Volunteers can walk or drive around during peak trick-or-treating hours to help keep an eye on the community.
- Use a Communication Platform: Platforms like Nextdoor or neighborhood-specific Facebook groups allow residents to share alerts and important updates about local crime or safety concerns. Staying connected digitally can help keep everyone informed.

5. Secure Vehicles and Valuables

Vehicle theft and break-ins tend to increase in the fall, as more people park outside while attending events or leaving home for weekend getaways. Preventing these crimes requires a few simple precautions.

- Lock Your Vehicle: Always lock your vehicle, even if you’re only leaving it for a few minutes. This includes rolling up the windows.
- Don’t Leave Valuables in Plain Sight: Remove all valuables, including electronics, wallets, and shopping bags, from your vehicle. If you must leave something in the car, store it out of sight, like in the trunk or glove compartment.
- Use Anti-Theft Devices: Consider using steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or GPS tracking devices in your vehicle to deter theft and aid in recovery if stolen.

6. Preventing Vandalism and Mischief

October is known for Halloween mischief, and while much of it is harmless fun, vandalism and other crimes can sometimes escalate. Taking a few simple steps can help prevent your home from becoming a target.

- Secure Halloween Decorations: Theft of outdoor Halloween decorations is unfortunately common. Make sure your decorations are secured, and avoid placing expensive items in easily accessible areas.
- Install Surveillance Cameras: A visible surveillance camera can deter would-be vandals. Make sure cameras cover entryways and other vulnerable areas.
- Talk to Teens: If you have older children, talk to them about the importance of respecting other people’s property and the consequences of vandalism. This conversation can help prevent them from getting involved in Halloween pranks that may go too far.

7. Holiday Travel Precautions

As the holiday season begins in late October, many families may leave home for trips or events, leaving their property vulnerable to break-ins. If you're planning to be away:

- **Make Your Home Look Occupied:** Use timers on lights and consider asking a neighbor to collect your mail or park their car in your driveway to give the impression someone is home.
- **Avoid Posting on Social Media:** Wait until you're back from vacation to post about your trip on social media. Sharing your plans in real-time could alert criminals to the fact that your home is empty.
- **Consider a Home Security System:** Installing a home security system with 24/7 monitoring can add a layer of protection while you're away. Many systems also offer mobile apps that allow you to check in on your home from anywhere.

Conclusion

As the days grow shorter and the excitement of Halloween and fall activities takes over, it's important to remain vigilant about crime prevention. By securing your home, vehicles, and neighborhood, you can help protect yourself and your community from becoming victims of crime. Simple steps like proper lighting, using security systems, and getting to know your neighbors can make a significant difference.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. By working together and staying informed, we can keep October focused on fun fall festivities—and not on crime.

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 is homeland security at the most local level. It is an opportunity to volunteer and work towards increasing the safety and security of our homes and our homeland. 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.

[Starting a Neighborhood Watch](#)

Halloween Safety Tips for Kids

Halloween is one of the most exciting nights of the year for children. Dressing up in costumes, trick-or-treating, and collecting mountains of candy are just a few of the highlights. But amidst the fun and thrills, safety should always come first. Whether you're heading out for trick-or-treating, attending a party, or staying in for a spooky movie night, it's important to keep a few key safety tips in mind to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

1. Costume Safety: Spooky but Safe

When picking out a costume, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of choosing the scariest or coolest outfit. But safety should always be considered first:

- **Choose Bright or Reflective Costumes:** If your child is going out at night, it's essential they can be easily seen by drivers. Consider using reflective tape on darker costumes, or opt for brighter costumes that can be spotted from a distance.
- **Ensure Costumes Fit Properly:** Long costumes can cause trips and falls. Make sure costumes are the right length and that shoes fit securely.
- **Use Non-toxic Face Paint Instead of Masks:** Masks can obstruct a child's vision, making it difficult to see obstacles or oncoming traffic. Face paint is a safer alternative that allows children to fully see their surroundings.
- **Test Makeup Ahead of Time:** To avoid skin irritation, test face paint or makeup on a small patch of skin a day or two before Halloween to ensure there are no allergic reactions.

2. Trick-or-Treating Safety: Stay Street-Smart

While trick-or-treating is a beloved Halloween tradition, it involves walking in the dark and potentially crossing streets, which can be dangerous if precautions aren't taken:

- **Stick to Well-lit Areas:** Always trick-or-treat in neighborhoods with plenty of streetlights. Carry a flashlight or use glow sticks to light your way.
- **Stay with a Group:** Children under the age of 12 should always be accompanied by an adult while trick-or-treating. If your child is older and going out with friends, make sure they stay in a group and set a curfew for when they should return home.
- **Use Crosswalks and Look Both Ways:** Remind children to cross streets at crosswalks and never dart out from between parked cars. Even though it's Halloween, road safety rules still apply.
- **Know the Route:** If your child is trick-or-treating without an adult, make sure you know their route and establish check-in times. It's important to know where they'll be at all times.

3. Candy Safety: Check Before You Eat

Halloween is all about collecting candy, but not all candy is safe to eat:

- **Inspect Candy Before Eating:** Once your children return home, go through their candy with them. Discard any candy with broken or torn wrappers, or anything that looks suspicious.
- **Be Cautious of Homemade Treats:** It's best to avoid homemade treats unless they come from someone you know and trust. Stick to store-bought, factory-sealed candy.
- **Limit Candy Intake:** Too much candy can lead to upset stomachs (and cavities). Set a limit for how much candy your child can have each day after Halloween to avoid a sugar overload.

4. Home Safety: For Trick-or-Treaters and Hosts

If you're staying home to hand out candy, there are a few things you can do to keep your home safe for visitors:

- **Clear Your Pathway:** Make sure the path leading to your door is free of obstacles that might trip trick-or-treaters, especially in the dark. Clear away any garden hoses, toys, or decorations that could cause someone to stumble.
- **Keep Pets Secure:** While your pets may be friendly, the constant doorbell ringing and presence of strangers can be stressful for them. Keep pets inside and away from the front door to avoid any accidents.
- **Light Up Your Porch:** A well-lit porch signals that you're open for trick-or-treaters and also makes it safer for kids to approach your house. If you're not handing out candy, turn off your porch light to avoid confusion.

5. Additional Safety Tips

A few extra precautions can help make sure your child's Halloween night is fun, safe, and memorable:

- **Emergency Information:** Make sure your child knows your contact information, especially if they are going trick-or-treating without an adult. Consider placing an ID tag inside their costume with your phone number and address.
- **Avoid Open Flames:** Halloween often includes candles in jack-o'-lanterns and decorations. If your child's costume has long fabric, make sure it's flame-resistant and keep an eye out for lit candles when trick-or-treating. Opt for LED candles for your own decorations to minimize the fire risk.
- **Stay Hydrated and Warm:** October nights can be chilly in many areas. Make sure your child wears layers under their costume if needed and stays hydrated, especially if they're walking long distances.

Conclusion

Halloween is all about fun, and with these safety tips in mind, you can ensure your kids have a fantastic, safe night. By focusing on costume safety, smart trick-or-treating practices, and candy inspection, you'll be prepared for a worry-free evening. Whether you're out collecting candy or staying home to hand it out, remember that safety is the most important treat of all!

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 your church leaders to visit tiptonconstables.org for class schedules and offerings to make sure our community is prepared. Not in Tipton County!

[Church Safety](#)

Drive Defensively Tipton

What if I could give you information that could reduce your chances of being involved in a motor vehicle crash 10-fold? Information that would protect you from financial hardship, injury, or even death from motor vehicle collisions.

1. **Three second rule.** We kick off the series with the Number 2 reason for crashes in Tennessee - keeping a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead. Always leave enough space to react safely in unexpected situations. Keeping a safe distance between your car and the one ahead gives you more time to react. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends at least three seconds of following distance under normal driving conditions. This is important because it gives you enough time to react to sudden stops or emergencies from the vehicle in front of you without risking a collision. Prevention Tip: Increase your following distance in adverse weather conditions or when driving a larger vehicle.
2. **Distractions can be deadly while driving.** Today's tip reminds you to always keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel. Stay focused and stay safe. Distracted driving is a leading cause of accidents. According to the CDC, approximately 9 people are killed daily in the U.S. due to distracted driving. This is important because distractions can significantly impair reaction times, making it difficult to respond effectively to unexpected road conditions or actions from other drivers. Prevention Tip: Keep your phone out of reach while driving to eliminate the temptation to use it.
3. **Speed control.** Remember, the posted speed limit is meant for ideal conditions. Adjust your speed accordingly to maintain control in varying weather and road conditions. Speed limits are set for ideal conditions. Rain, snow, and fog require reduced speed for safety. This is important because inappropriate speed can lead to loss of vehicle control, especially under adverse weather conditions like rain, snow, or ice, increasing the likelihood of accidents. Prevention Tip: Reduce your speed by 10-20 mph below the speed limit when conditions deteriorate.
4. **Turn signals.** You don't need firecrackers for this one. Today's tip emphasizes the importance of using your turn signals to inform other drivers of your next move. It's not just polite – it's safe! Signaling your intentions makes you more predictable to other drivers. A study by the Society of Automotive Engineers found that failure to use turn signals contributes to nearly 2 million accidents each year. This is important for communicating your driving intentions to other road users, reducing the chances of misunderstandings that could lead to accidents. Signal your intentions! Prevention Tip: Always signal at least 100 feet before turning or changing lanes.
5. **Keep your eyes ahead!** This driving tip encourages you to actively scan the road far ahead of your vehicle, helping you anticipate problems before they arise. Constantly scanning the road allows you to recognize and react to potential hazards before it's too late. This is important because it allows drivers to anticipate potential hazards and adjust their driving before issues arise, promoting safer driving conditions. Prevention Tip: Look 10-15 seconds ahead while driving, about one block in urban areas or a quarter mile on highways.
6. **Yield it out.** This is about four-way stop, roundabouts, and other ways in which drivers control the flow of traffic. When in doubt, yield it out. This tip concerns prioritizing safety by yielding the right of way at intersections and merges, especially if the situation isn't clear. Being aggressive at intersections can lead to accidents. Yielding the right of way can prevent collisions. This is important because it prevents accidents at intersections and other merging points where the right of way might not be clear, thus reducing potential conflicts. Prevention Tip: When in doubt, let the other driver proceed first.
7. **A well-maintained vehicle is a safer vehicle.** This tip urges you to check your car regularly—proper maintenance can prevent breakdowns and accidents. Proper vehicle maintenance reduces the risk of accidents caused by mechanical failures. Tire blowouts and brake failures are common issues that can lead to severe accidents. This is important because mechanical

failures can lead to dangerous situations on the road, such as brake failures or tire blowouts, which directly compromise the driver's ability to control the vehicle. Prevention Tip: Follow your vehicle's maintenance schedule and regularly check fluids and tire pressure.

8. **Use the mirrors.** See the whole picture by adjusting your mirrors correctly. This tip helps minimize blind spots, making lane changes and merging much safer. Correct mirror adjustment minimizes blind spots, which are a common cause of accidents when changing lanes. The reason this is important is because its key to eliminating as many blind spots as possible, enhancing the driver's ability to see other vehicles and road users, which is critical for safe lane changes and turns. Prevention Tip: Adjust your mirrors before you start driving to ensure maximum coverage and visibility.
9. **Impaired Drivers.** Driving under the influence puts everyone at risk. This tip is a crucial reminder to drive sober or plan an alternative way home if you've been drinking. Driving under the influence significantly impairs your ability to drive safely. Alcohol-related crashes account for approximately 29 deaths in the U.S. each day, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The reason this is important is because alcohol and drugs impair cognitive functions, reaction times, and decision-making abilities, dramatically increasing the risk of accidents and fatalities. Prevention Tip: Plan for a designated driver or use public transportation if you consume alcohol.
10. **Our final tip in the series** is to Be Aware of Pedestrians and Cyclists: Watch out for the little guy! Today's tip stresses the importance of being extra vigilant for pedestrians and cyclists who share the road with us. Pedestrians and cyclists are vulnerable and less visible on the road. Fatalities involving pedestrians and cyclists have increased in recent years. This is important because pedestrians and cyclists are more vulnerable than motorized vehicles and often have less protection in collisions, making it crucial for drivers to be vigilant and considerate to avoid accidents. Prevention Tip: Always check for pedestrians and cyclists, especially in urban areas, school zones, and before making right-hand turns.

What's a Constable?

Constables operate as individually elected county officials 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! ABSOLUTELY no tax dollars are used to support the Constable's 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 work hand-in-hand with 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.

Integrity - Compassion - Service Before Self - Excellence