

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • August, 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



August Driver Safety Tips

Tip#27 If there is not a seat, don't ride. It is unsafe for anyone to ride in the bed of a pick-up truck. The probability of injury or death sharply increases when sudden stops or turns are required and especially during collisions. It is illegal for persons under age 12 to ride in the bed of a pick-up truck. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-189, City Ordinance 102-14

Tip#28 Speed Kills! Observe all posted speed limit signs. Traffic engineers who have studied road conditions, traffic volume, and road design establish speed limits. Discipline yourself to drive smart. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-153

Tip#29 Yield to Emergency Vehicles. Drivers should always yield immediately to the right side of the roadway, when it is safe to do so, when Emergency Vehicles are approaching from behind. Do not panic or block the roadway. They may be going to your house. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-8-132

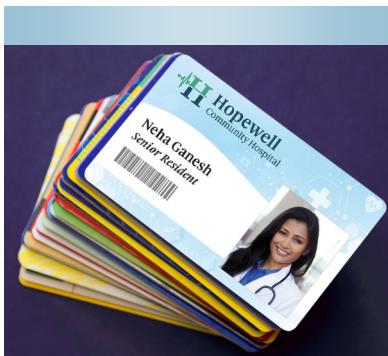
Tip#30 Children must be restrained. Drivers: It's your responsibility! Tennessee State law requires that all children under the age 9 years be restrained in an approved and appropriate child restraint device. It is recommended that all children under the age of 1 year be restrained in a rear-facing device regardless of their weight. Effective July 01, 2004, all children over the age of 4 years but under age 9 and less than 5 feet tall, must be restrained in an approved and appropriate booster seat system. This is required so that the vehicles seat belt will fit the child properly. Tennessee Law TCA – 55-9-602

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Points of Interest

- Inside you'll find crime prevention information that will protect you and your family.
- In this edition, we will give you all the best tips for burglary prevention, and identity theft.



Identity Theft

Identity Theft is the fastest growing crime in the world. Identity Theft costs American consumers billions of dollars in lost revenues each year.

Victims of Identity Theft spend years trying to clean their credit identity. Here are a few easy tips to reduce the OPPORTUNITY of becoming a victim of Identity Theft.

Shred Financial Documents Anything that has your name and address on it should be shredded, and that includes most bills. Never throw these items away in the trash until they have been shredded.

Avoid Using Free WI-FI; Many restaurants and shopping centers offer free WIFI for internet access. Internet thieves, known as;” Skimmers” intercept your data, and they can send a virus to your computer, gain access to important account numbers, passwords and PIN numbers.

Use Cash When Possible; Each time a Credit/Debit card is used for a transaction, the possibility looms that the card or account number will be stolen. Withdrawal cash from a recognized bank ATM for minor purchases

Review ALL Bank and Credit Statements; By law, a consumer is not responsible for unauthorized purchases and withdrawals based on fraudulent activity if reported within 60 days of the transaction. **First Aid Kit -** Keep a first aid kit nearby to handle minor injuries. Know basic first aid procedures for burns and other common injuries.

For more safety tips and updates, visit the Tipton Constables Facebook page. Stay informed and connected with your community to foster a safer, happier environment for all.

www.facebook.com/Constable.Darren.Smith

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.

WHEN TO CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

CALL 911 IF YOU:

HAVE AN EMERGENCY	WITNESS A CRIME IN ACTION	HAVE DIFFICULTY BREATHING
HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS	NEED IMMEDIATE FIRE ASSISTANCE	REQUIRE MEDICAL HELP

DO NOT CALL 911 IF YOU:

HAVE A LAW QUESTION
WANT TO KNOW WHEN AN EVENT IS
HAVE A GENERAL COMPLAINT
JUST WANT TO CHAT

Driver Safety—Speeding Campaign

Speeding can do damage that's beyond repair. When you drive over the speed limit, even by a little bit, you put yourself and everyone on the road in danger. The result could be a serious injury or deadly crash. Know that speeding is illegal and affects everyone on the road. Since July 13th, there is a Facebook post every Saturday on the Constable page to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding.

By the Numbers

More than 12,000 people were killed in speed-related crashes in 2022. While drivers of all ages are represented in speeding-related crashes, data shows about 24% of drivers 18-44 involved in fatal crashes were speeding, and young men are the most likely to be speeding at the time of fatal crashes. In 2022, 35% of male drivers 15-20 and 32% of male drivers 21-24 involved in fatal crashes were speeding.

Know the Dangers of Speeding

No matter how advanced your driving skills are, speeding is dangerous. Speeding:

- Reduces your ability to steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object or an unexpected curve;
- Extends the time it takes your vehicle to stop; and
- Increases the risk of a crash because other vehicles and pedestrians may not be able to judge your distance correctly; and
- Can increase the severity of injuries if you're involved in a crash.

Burglary Prevention Tips

Although home burglaries may seem random in occurrence, they actually involve a selection process. The burglar's selection process is simple. Choose an unoccupied home with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes. What follows is a list of suggestions to minimize your risk by making your home unattractive to potential burglars.

WAYS TO DISCOURAGE BURGLARIES:

BRIGHT IDEAS:

- Install lights by all exterior doors. Use lights all night.
- Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency response.
- Don't give burglars a place to hide. Trim shrubs back from doors and windows. Shrubs should not be taller than 3 ft. and limbs on trees should not be lower than 8 ft. Bushes with thorns near windows can be a deterrent for burglars.

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.

Stay 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!

What Is Crime Prevention?

By definition, Crime prevention is: "Being aware that a crime CAN occur, ANTICIPATING its form, location, time and victim, and TAKING ACTION to reduce the chances of its happening."

There are three elements the criminal must possess for a crime to occur: DETERMINATION, ABILITY and OPPORTUNITY. Eliminate just one of these elements and no crime will take place. You have no control over the first two elements. Whether the criminal has the desire or ability to commit the crime is solely up to them. However, you can have great control over, if not eliminate, the third element – OPPORTUNITY.

Crime prevention is using INSTINCT, ACTION, and COMMON SENSE, to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal's opportunity. A large share of the responsibility of reducing the opportunity of becoming a victim lies with you ! That is not to say that if you are the victim of crime it is your fault and not the fault of the criminal... certainly not! But the fact remains that we all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention.

Crime Prevention is a community strategy that has been proven successful in many neighborhoods.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Keep valuables in a safe deposit box or locked safe.
- Make sure your safe cannot be easily removed from your home.

VEHICLE SMARTS:

- Keep your vehicle locked.
- Close the garage door and cover windows so no one can see inside.
- Leave only the ignition key with parking lot attendants - if required.
- Remove or hide the garage door opener from open view in your car.

ALARM SYSTEMS:

- Alarm systems deter burglaries because they increase the potential and fear of being caught.
- Signs and decals also help to notify that there is an alarm system in place. Familiarize yourself with your alarm and video surveillance systems.
- Know how to arm the systems, receive notifications of alarms, and how to review and share saved surveillance.

IF YOU SUSPECT A BURGLARY

- Call the police immediately.
- Don't enter; burglar may be inside.
- Try not to touch anything until a detective can process your house for evidence.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- Looking in windows or all around the property.
- Odd clothing for the season.
- Nervous looking person alone or with a lookout.
- Utility person without an appointment.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Photograph and make a list of firearms, jewelry and other valuables including serial numbers and receipts.
- Photocopy of contents of your wallet and other documents.
- Store the copies in a safe place.
- Secure basement windows to prevent forcing.
- Install quality deadbolts.
- Use solid core or metal exterior doors.

CRIME PREVENTION



Crime Prevention Reminders

VEHICLE SECURITY

Take Out Valuables If you can leave your valuables at home, do so. Otherwise, when you get to your destination, take valuables with you. If you do have to leave them in your vehicle place them in your trunk when you reach your final destination.

Lock your Vehicle

Verify that your vehicle is securely locked before leaving the area. Possible remote locking malfunction or a low battery could leave your vehicle unlocked.

Close Windows and Sun/Moon Roof

Windows and sun/moon roof (if equipped) allows a thief a quick and quiet way to enter your vehicle. Even a crack in the window makes the thief's job so much easier. Verify that your vehicle's windows are rolled up and the sun/moon roof is closed before leaving the vehicle.

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

Many burglars spend no more than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. Good lighting, strong locks and neighbors who watch out for each other can be deterrents. The following tips can help make your home less appealing to a burglar.

- Have lights at all entrances.
- Do not leave a schedule of your times away from home on your answering machine.
- Know which of your neighbors you can trust and depend upon in an emergency.
- Don't hide extra keys in easily accessible places.
- Ask for photo identification for all repair persons. If you are suspicious, call to verify employment.
- Never give personal information to telephone solicitors.
- Don't flaunt your possessions. Destroy large purchase containers i.e.; plasma T.V. box and don't sit these containers out with the regular garbage.

Practicing Crime Prevention

1. **EDUCATE YOURSELF ON CRIME PREVENTION TECHNIQUES.** Contact your Constable or the Sheriff's Office for information on how to make your home more secure, mark your personal property and maintain personal security. Inquire about a residential home security survey.

2. **KNOW YOUR CONSTABLES & SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES.** Know the location of the Sheriff's Office. Utilize the 911 system. Get to know and support your local deputies and your district's Constable.

3. **REPORT ANY CRIME.** Report any crime or suspicion of a crime at once. No violation is too small to be reported. Don't assume that someone else has already reported it.

4. **STAY INFORMED.** Follow the news. Keep posted on local crime problems. Attend public meetings. Get to know the local crime situation and what's being done about it.

5. **WORK WITH OTHERS.** Support groups, especially those working with young people, to foster a sense of community that builds character or that have active programs that help prevent crime.

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.

Constables supplement the county Sheriff's Office and local Police Departments. They 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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