

CRIME WATCH NEWSLETTER

February 2021



Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing

Tarpon Springs Police Department

444 South Huey Avenue

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Emergency # 911

Dispatch # 727-937-6151

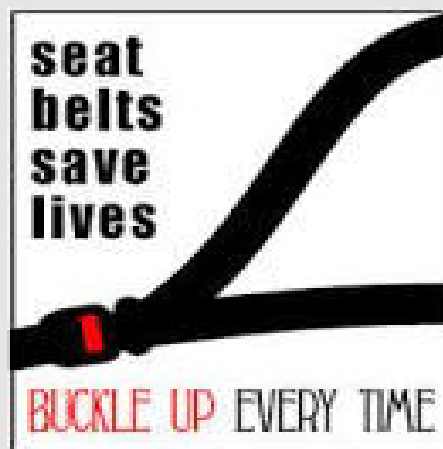
Police Admin/Non Emergency # 727-938-2849



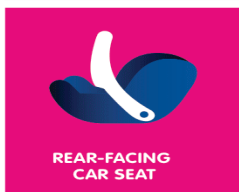
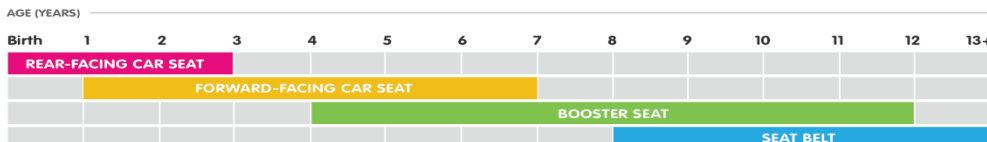
Things to Know



IT'S THE LAW



Car Seat Recommendations: Choosing the Right Seat



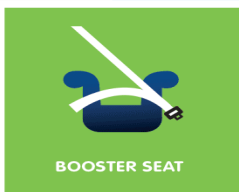
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness in the back seat.

A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

A booster seat positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember, your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

A seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

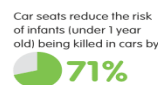
Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.

Car crashes are a **leading killer of children** ages 1 to 13.

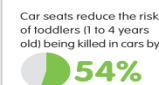
In crashes from 2007-2011, **3,661 children** (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed. An estimated **634,000 children** under 13 were injured.



In 2011, **655 children** (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed in crashes.



Car seats reduce the risk of infants (under 1 year old) being killed in cars by



Car seats reduce the risk of toddlers (1 to 4 years old) being killed in cars by

CRIME PREVENTION TIP

Three factors must be present for a crime to occur:

Desire, Ability and Opportunity

You can have a significant impact on the last one **Opportunity** and reduce crime by following these simple crime prevention tips.

- Use a door viewer before opening your door. Always demand identification from strangers (even repair or sales persons).
- Always lock up your home before leaving and don't hide your house keys outdoors anywhere.
- Have keys ready and in your hand for immediate use when you return home.
- Use interior and exterior lighting at all times.
- Shred credit card offers and bank statements before you throw them away if you do not plan on using them.
- Hide or destroy boxes from expensive purchases.
- Do not answer personal questions about your home such as type of alarm, daytime occupancy, etc.
- Do not let people inside your home (to use the bathroom, phone, etc.).
- Avoid mail theft by dropping off outgoing mail at the local post office.
- Do not give out your personal information or credit card number over the phone unless you initiated the call.

Safeguard your home while you are away with Vacation House Checks offered by the Tarpon Springs Police Department.

If you have any questions about the Vacation House Check program, contact ACTION Unit at 727-937-8753 or e-mail to tspdcrimeprev@tspd.us

Fire Safety

Now is a great time to check out that Fire Extinguisher you have stuffed in the closet, under the cabinet, or better yet buried in the garage. Dust it off and give it a good inspection, check the gauge pressure, check the nozzle for obstructions, and now give it a good shake.

These items will help it ready for use when you need it.

Do you know how to USE your Fire Extinguisher?

Here are 4 quick and easy steps for proper Fire Extinguisher use.

Remember the **P A S S** Word

Pull

Pull the pin (or other motion) to unlock the extinguisher.



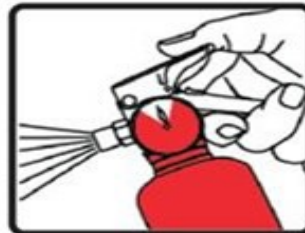
Aim

Aim at the base (bottom) of the fire and stand 6 - 10 feet away.



Squeeze

Squeeze the lever to discharge the agent.



Sweep

Sweep the spray from left to right until the flames are totally extinguished.



SCAM

TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION

Internal Revenue Service Impersonation Scam

How Does the Scam Work?

Criminals call intended victims and claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The scammers tell the intended victims that they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card, money order, wire transfer, or gift card. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with being charged with a criminal violation, a grand jury indictment, immediate arrest, deportation, or loss of a business or driver's license.

The scammers who commit this fraud often:

- * Utilize a robocall machine to make unsolicited calls via Voice Over Internet Protocol technology to make it appear that the calls originate in the U.S.
- * This technique, also known as "spoofing," can make the calls appear to be from the IRS or even a local police department.
- * Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- * May know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security Number.
- * Aggressively demand immediate payment to avoid being criminally charged or arrested.
- * Claim that hanging up the telephone will cause the immediate issuance of an arrest warrant for unpaid taxes.
- * Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- * Call a second or third time claiming to be the police or other government entity.

Continue **Internal Revenue Service Impersonation Scam**

The IRS Will Never:

- * Ask for payment via prepaid debit cards, money orders, or wire transfers.
- * Ask for credit card numbers over the telephone.
- * Request personal or financial information by e-mail, text, or via any social media.

What can I do?

- * Do not engage with the callers, just hang up.
- * Tell everyone that if you receive a call and think you owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.
- * Retain their original scam-related documentation: method of payment, receipts, notes, and telephone numbers used by the scammer. In the case of pre-paid cards, it is especially important to retain all card numbers.
- * Immediately notify the company associated with the payment method, in an effort to stop or reverse funds.
- * Be aware the IRS does employ non-law enforcement revenue officers and revenue agents who conduct field visits and will have official IRS credentials.
- * Share this information with friends and family.

File a Report – Help us #SlamTheScam:

Online: <http://www.tigta.gov>



PROPERTY CRIME YOU CAN HELP PREVENT IT



LOCK IT

Ensure your car doors and all doors to your residence are kept locked.



REMOVE IT

Removing valuables from your car is better than hiding them. This includes garage door openers and spare keys.



LIGHT IT

Leave exterior residence lights on at night or utilize motion detecting lights.



CLOSE IT

Keep your garage door closed and double-check it is closed at night.



HIDE IT

Keep valuables in your garage, car and home out of sight.



REPORT IT

Report all criminal and suspicious activity immediately.

Police-727-937-6151

**TARPON SPRINGS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



NON-EMERGENCY
(727) 938-2849
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727-937-6151

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