



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **POLICE OFFER SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION AND SAFETY TIPS**

### ***While on Vacation***

- You can call Taylor Police to place your home on a list for “home checks.”
- Leave a car in the driveway or ask neighbors to park there.
- Have a neighbor collect your mail and any deliveries.
- Never hide keys; leave one with a trusted neighbor if needed.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Turn the telephone ringer down low so a prowler won't notice no one is answering.
- Put several lamps on timers to turn off at different hours and leave shades in normal positions to avoid having your home appear unoccupied.
- Never leave a telephone message stating that you are away.
- If you have guns or other valuables, leave them with a relative or trusted friend.
- Tell a neighbor how to reach you and how long you will be gone. They can report suspicious activity to police.
- If you return home and find evidence of a break-in, do not enter and do not touch anything. Call police from a neighbor's house. If you encounter a burglar, just let him leave. Get a good description and call police.


### ***On The Road***

- Check and service your vehicle for trouble before your trip.
- Let someone know what your itinerary and travel route is going to be.
- Never carry lots of cash; use traveler's checks.
- Record and store traveler's checks and credit card numbers in a safe place. Have phone numbers to call if your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen.
- Be aware of your surroundings and never advertise your plans, including travel routes and how much cash you are carrying.
- Do not stop to help a stranded motorist. Call for assistance.
- If you're followed, drive to a public place and call police.
- If your car breaks down, stay in your locked car; ask anyone who stops to call police or a garage. If you must abandon your car, keep all passengers together.

### ***Home Repair Scams***

- Be suspicious of persons soliciting door-to-door. The suspects may offer to do the job for a very low price. But once complete, they submit a bill that is much higher.
- Another scam is when someone approaches and distracts the homeowner with various ruses such as pretending to be sick, asking for water, etc. While distracting

the homeowner, an unseen accomplice enters the home and steals valuables such as jewelry, silver, and cash.

- These criminals will also pose as a legitimate technician from a utility company as well as repair workers. They may also approach elderly homeowners to gain access into their house.
- Check with the utility company by phone if an employee wants to enter your home, or wants you to come outside with them. If you do not see any identification, ask for it. However, these criminals have become adept at making their own I.D.'s and each one should be verified with the company they claim to be representing.
- Always lock your doors when doing yard work, getting mail, or anytime you go outside.
- Never allow strangers inside your home.
- Beware of unsolicited home repair people. If you need home services, check with the city's Building Department or the Better Business Bureau to make sure they are legitimate. Verify that the contractor is licensed, bonded and insured and that, if hired, obtains the needed permits. **Be suspicious of high-pressure tactics!**
- Pay by  check so you can stop payment if dissatisfied. Make sure you receive the proper "Notice of Cancellation" form as required by the Federal Trade Commission's "Three Day Cooling off Rule" for contracts signed in the home. Under this rule, you have three days to cancel purchases made of \$25 or more when the sale occurred in your home, workplace, or at facilities rented by the seller on a temporary basis.
- Be sure the work is properly completed before final payment.
- Write down the license plate number of any suspicious vehicle they may be driving and get a good physical description of anyone who comes to your door.
- Call Taylor Police immediately to report any incidents of being victimized by one of these schemes. Never be too embarrassed to report that you've been victimized.

### **Yard Security**

- If you are working in the front yard, lock the back door and garage. If you are working in the back yard, lock the front door and garage.
- Don't keep ladders or other equipment in the yard that could be used to gain access to your home.
- Keep shrubs, bushes, hedges, and fences to a height of three feet or less.
- Solid fences can prevent neighbors from watching out for each other. Consider chain link or picket-type fencing.
- Residential lighting should be used to illuminate home entry points. Motion detectors lights are an inexpensive deterrent for areas where continuous lighting is not necessary.
- Keep the lawn mower and other equipment in a locked garage or shed.
- Engrave your license number on your lawn mower.

### **Bicycle Security**

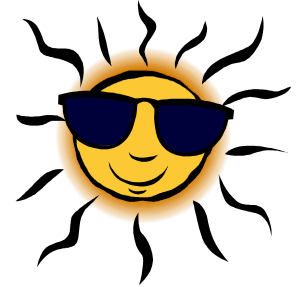
- More bikes are stolen from homes than from any other location.
- Lock your bicycle to a stationary object with a hardened steel U-shaped lock.
- Avoid locks, chains or cable that can easily be cut or broken.
- Make sure both wheels are locked and remove any accessories that can be taken.
- Engrave the bicycle with your driver's license number in an inconspicuous spot.

# Summer Safety Tips for Parents

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## **Curfew**

- Parents can help with summertime problems involving juveniles by observing the City of Taylor curfew ordinance.
- Children under 16 may not be out in public without a parent from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Children under 18 may not be out in public without a parent from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.



## **Backyard Pool Safety Tips**

- Children are not “drown-proof” even if they know how to swim.
- Your pool or spa should have a five-foot minimum high fence that surrounds it.
- Use a gate that is self-closing/self-latching and opens outward away from the pool.
- Keep law equipment, chairs, tables, etc. away from the fence and pool area to prevent a child from climbing over.
- Remove all inflatable toys from the pool area. They will attract children to the pool.
- Supervise children in your pool at all times and do not be distracted by reading, talking on the phone, using earphones, etc. Designate a second adult for during breaks.
- Keep a phone near the pool in case of emergency.
- Learn CPR—Never swim alone—Make sure everyone in your family can swim.
- After use, account that everyone is out of the pool.
- After use, remove inflatable toys from the pool area and make sure gate is locked.

## **Kid Safety Out and About**

- According to the University of Michigan Health System, parents need to take extra precautions during the summer months when children are more active.
- Kids are not small adults. They see, hear, think and act differently in traffic than adults. Know your child’s limitations and supervise them accordingly.
- Children cannot accurately judge the speed or distance of oncoming cars.
- Children under the age of ten should cross the street with an adult.
- The average age of those hurt or killed crossing the street mid-block was six.
- More than half of pedestrian injuries to kids under nine happen when they dart out into the street unexpectedly between cars.
- Youngsters should not ride bikes in the street until they fully understand traffic rules and show they can follow them.
- Toddlers are most often hurt by a car backing up—sometimes at their own residence.
- Never carry a baby under age one on a bike or in a bike trailer. Babies this young do not have enough back and neck strength to sit up and wear a helmet.
- Walk and ride bikes with your child, and model safe street crossing for them.
- Teach your children to look left, right, then left again before stepping into the street. Tell them only to cross at the corners or at designated crossing points.
- Children should always walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalks, you should teach them to walk on the side of the street *facing* traffic.

- Teach kids to recognize crossing signals. Remind them to keep going even if the light starts blinking “don’t walk” while they are still in the street.
- Tell children not to cross between cars or to run after balls or other toys into the road.

### Safe Cycling

- Start good habits with your toddler by having them wear helmets on their big wheels and tricycles.
- Children should wear helmets when biking, inline skating, riding a scooter and skateboarding.
- Helmets could prevent 88 percent of serious brain injuries; 69 percent of head injuries; and 65 percent of injuries to the face.
- A helmet should cover the forehead (two finger widths above the eyebrows) and sit snug and level on the head and not slide around.

### Scooter Safety

- The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that kids under 12 not ride fast-moving motorized scooters.
- Wear a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads. (Wrist guards may make it difficult to grip the handle and steer the scooter.)
- Children under age eight should not use non-powered scooters without close adult supervision. Children under the age of 12 should not ride motorized scooters.
- Avoid gravel and uneven pavement, which can lead to falls.
- Do not ride scooters in traffic.
- Avoid riding ride scooters at night - riders can't see where they are going and it is difficult for motorists to see them as well.
- Wear sturdy shoes.
- Parents should check with the police department for local laws regarding scooters.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (2007)

*Additional copies of this publication can be obtained on the City of Taylor website [www.cityoftaylor.com](http://www.cityoftaylor.com). For more information, contact Sgt. Mary Sclabassi Of the Investigative Services Division at (734) 374-1531.*