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CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

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Keeping Your Summer Vacation Crime Free

A home that is vacant—or looks vacant—can be enticing to a burglar when you're on vacation. Use these tips to keep them in check:

- 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/deliveries.
- Don't hide keys; leave it with a trusted neighbor.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Turn the telephone ringer down low so a prowler won't notice that no one is answering.
- Put 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 number 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're carrying.
- Do not stop to help a stranded motorist. Call for assistance for them.
- 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.

Hotel and Motel Security

- Learn the direct route to and from your room to fire escapes, elevators and nearest phone.
- Use all door and window locks. You can buy a portable door lock for traveling.

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...Taylor Police Offer Summer Vacation Safety Tips

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- Use a door viewer to identify anyone at the door. If in doubt, call the hotel office.
- Place your property in the closet and dresser. Arrange things so you'll know if anything is missing.
- Lock any electrical devices inside luggage. Suitcases should always be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property from your room.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards, or car keys in the room. Use the hotel/motel safe to store extra cash and other valuables.

Car Security

- Always lock your car and keep valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk. Always carry wallets, checkbooks, and purses with you.
- Do not advertise that you are a tourist.
- Park in a well-lit, busy area.

- Check the back seat before getting into your car.
- Mark your car radio and other removable car equipment with your driver's license number for identification.

Sightseeing

- Ask for directions at the hotel/motel to local attractions and select tour guides carefully. Ask if any areas in town should be avoided. Stick to well-lit main streets and public areas.
- Looking lost can make you look like an easy target. If you do get lost, find an open business and ask for directions.
- Only carry as much cash as you will need and in small bills.
- If older children go off separately, synchronize your watches and be sure they know the importance of returning at the designated time and place.



Stay Safe When Cooking Outdoors During Barbeque Season

Barbeque season is finally here, but there are a few things to watch out for when cooking outdoors so you enjoy yourself and stay safe.

- Never use a propane barbeque grill on a balcony, terrace or roof. It is both dangerous and illegal.
- Only use a charcoal barbeque on a balcony if there is a 10 foot clearance from the building and there is an close source of water or a pail of water.
- Check your grill for leaks.
- Clean the tubes that lead to the burner
- Keep the grill 10 feet from your house.
- Use your grill on a large flat surface that cannot burn. Do not use in a garage, deck or on top of anything that can burn.
- Keep children **away** from fires and grills. It is a good idea to set up a safety zone around the grill and teach children to remain outside the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose.
- Have a fire extinguisher, hose or pail of water nearby in case of fire.
- Use long handled tools or flame resistant mitts.



- Never use any flammable liquid other than barbeque starter fluid to start a fire.
- Never pour starter fluid onto an open flame. It can flashback along the fluid's path to the container in your hands.
- Keep alcoholic beverages away from the grill, they are flammable!
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Keep the grill clean and free of grease build-up that may lead to a fire.
- Never store liquid/fuels inside your home or near sources of flame.

In Case of Fire:

- For propane grills—turn off the burners. For charcoal grills—close the lid. Disconnect the power to electric grills.
- For propane grills, if you can safely reach the tank valve, shut it off.
- If the fire involves the tank, leave it alone, evacuate the area and call the fire department 9-1-1.
- Never attempt to extinguish a grease fire with water. It will only cause the flames to flare up. Use an approved portable fire extinguisher.

How to Keep Your Kids Protected this Summer

Parents can help with summertime problems involving juveniles by observing the City of Taylor **curfew ordinance**.

- Children under 16 may not be out without a parent from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Children under 18 may not be out without a parent from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Other precautions parents can take are:

- 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 as such.
- Child cannot accurately judge the speed or distance of oncoming cars.
- Children under the age of 10 should cross the street with an adult.
- The average age of those hurt or killed crossing the street was six.
- More than half of pedestrian injuries to kids under 9 happen when they dart out into the street between cars.
- Youngsters should not ride bikes in the street until they fully understand traffic rules and can follow them. The general guideline is that children under age 9 should not be permitted to ride in the street.
- Toddlers are most often hurt by a car backing up—often 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.
- 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 them 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.
- Have your child wear their helmets even on big wheels and tricycles or when skating, riding a scooter or skateboarding.
- A helmet should cover the forehead (two finger widths above the eyebrows) and sit snug and level on the head and not slide around.
- Children under 12 should not ride motorized scooters. Children under 8 should not use non-powered scooters without supervision.



Make Sure to Use Common Sense While Pool Side

Children are not "drown-proof" even if they know how to swim, so be responsible when playing their outside swimming activities.

- 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 lawn equipment, chairs, tables, etc. away from the fence and pool area to keep a child from climbing over.
- Remove all inflatable toys from the pool area. They will attract children to the pool.
- Supervise kids 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 and **never** swim alone. Make sure everyone in your family can swim.
- Look up CPR classes through the American Red Cross at www.semredcross.org.
- After use, account that everyone is out of the pool.
- After use, remove inflatable toys from the pool area and make sure the gate to the pool area is locked.
- For more swim safety visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.





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We're on the Web!
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For more Information Contact:

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Protecting Your Family During Storm Season

All thunderstorms are dangerous and can produce lightning. In the U.S., an average of 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed each year by lightning. Though most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report long-term, debilitating symptoms.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers these guidelines during storm season:

- Remember the 30/30 lightning safety rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clasp of thunder.
- If a storm is likely in your area, postpone outdoor activities.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Rubber-soled shoes and tires offer NO protection from lightning. But, the steel frame of a hard-topped car provides increased protection if you're not touching metal.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Secure doors and close window blinds and shades.
- Avoid showering or bathing. Plumbing fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Use a corded telephone only in emergency. Cordless and cell phones are safe for use.
- Unplug appliances and other electronics and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Avoid being near a tall isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach, a boat on the water, isolated sheds, any thing metal i.e. tractors, farm equipment, bikes, golf carts, and golf clubs.
- In a wooded area, seek shelter in a low area under a thick area of trees.
- In an open area, go to a low place.
- On open water, get to land and find shelter immediately.

Anywhere you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates lightning is about to strike), squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and

• your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact to the ground. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

During a Tornado:

- Look for approaching storms, dark, greenish sky, large hail, a large, dark, low-lying cloud, or a loud train-like roar.
- If indoors, go to a designated safe room, basement, storm cellar or lowest building level. If no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level away from windows, doors and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- If in a vehicle or mobile home, get out and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
- If outside with no shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch and cover your head. Do not go under a bridge or overpass. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes cause most fatalities and injuries.
- After any storm or emergency, care for anyone who is injured and if able to do so, call 9-1-1.
- For more information on emergency preparedness go to www.fema.gov.



• **Additional copies of this newsletter can be downloaded from the department's website at www.cityoftaylor.com/police.**

Information for this newsletter was obtained from the American Crime Prevention Institute, FEMA, as well as the National Sheriff's Association.