



National Night Out Against Crime

Safety Guide for Residents & Families

Provided by the Munster Police Department

October 6, 2020

Residents are encouraged to read and share the following safety tips with their families during this year's National Night Out activities. Please share them during a family picnic or meal on October 6th.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

- Always try to walk, jog, or shop with a friend when possible so that you can look out for each other.
- Be aware of home improvement scams which often target senior citizens. These often involve individuals who pose as utility workers and will push their way into your home to distract you while an accomplice comes through the front door to steal items. Always keep your door locked and do not allow unknown individuals to come into your residence who you have not personally called for service.
- If you see a suspicious person standing in your path, go a different direction. If the subject follows you, attempt to get to a well-populated area and call 911 while doing so if you have a cell phone. If you do not have one and no one is around, yell for help in order to direct attention to the situation.
- Never attempt to confront a burglar. If you believe that someone is in your home and you can get out of the house safely, please do so and call 911 from a safe location. If you cannot get out, attempt to hide and call or text to 911 to get police on their way to your residence.
- Try to park in well-lit areas. Have a friend or co-worker walk you to your vehicle when leaving work if possible. If you are scared to walk out to your vehicle in the dark, call the police to request an escort.

SAFETY FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS

- Talk with your children regularly about stranger-danger, and discuss different situations that they may face when a stranger is attempting to trick them (offering a ride, offering valuables, saying that the child's parent said it was ok to go with them, etc.). Teach them to say no, run, and tell an adult right away.
- Make sure that children are never left alone to walk, ride bikes, or play. A responsible adult should always be nearby to assist them when needed.
- Teenagers should also be encouraged to always walk, jog, or bike in groups for their safety. Encourage both children and teenagers to let you know if anyone or anything makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Monitor the internet activity and associations of your children and teens. Encourage them not to make "friends" with individuals through social media or online games who they do not know.

HOME SECURITY AND PROTECTING YOUR VALUABLES

- Keep your home well-lit from dusk to dawn using different types of lighting (motion-detecting, etc.).
- Keep your shrubs trimmed down below the window line and keep trees trimmed so that your residence is visible from the street. Make sure that your address is visible to responding officers as well.
- Keep your doors closed and locked at all times to prevent home invasions, and keep windows closed and locked at night and when you are not at home.
- Insert thick dowel rods into the railings of sliding glass doors and in the space between windows.
- Keep your garage door closed when you are not inside of it to prevent theft of tools and equipment.
- Contact the Munster Police Department's Community Policing Unit to schedule a home security survey.
- Carry your wallet in your front pocket when in large crowds, and carry purses slung in front of you and zipped up at all times when shopping or eating at restaurants. Never place purses on the floor, in shopping carts, on the back of your chair in restaurants, or on counter tops at work.
- Always lock your vehicles and remove all valuables from plain view at night, while shopping, or at work.