



Tarpon Springs Police Department

Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing



February

Crime Watch Newsletter

Don't Drive Drunk !

Drunk Driving Penalties in Florida

If you drink alcohol and drive you dramatically increase your chance of being in a crash. In addition, if you are pulled over and the officer asks you to take a blood, urine, or breath test you are required to comply. Florida has the "Implied Consent Law". When you sign your drivers license you have agreed to take these tests upon request. Refusal to take any of the tests will result in an immediate suspension for one year. A second refusal will result in an 18 month suspension.

This is all very costly. Is it worth it?

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**DON'T
DRINK AND
DRIVE!!!**

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DO.**

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No one can drink alcohol and still drive safely. Drinking and driving causes accidents and deaths every day and therefore the penalties in Florida are very tough. If you drink and drive the result may be jail time, loss of your Florida drivers license, heavy fines, and much higher auto insurance rates. And a conviction will stay on your Florida driving record for 75 years.

Zero Tolerance for Drivers under 21

Florida has a Zero Tolerance law for drivers under 21. This means that any driver under 21 that is stopped by law enforcement and has a blood alcohol level of .02 or higher will automatically have their Florida drivers license suspended for 6 months. The .02 limit really means that you cannot have a single drink and drive. And that's the idea.

For drivers over 21 the legal limit in Florida is .08. Regardless of your age be aware that drinking and driving is considered a serious offense. Below we have summarized the penalties in the state of Florida for a first offense DUI, but the average cost including legal defense, fines, and auto insurance increases is \$8000.

Florida Penalties for DUI First Conviction

Fine - \$250 to \$500

Community Service - 50 Hours

Probation - Not more than 1 Year

Imprisonment - Not more than 6 Months

Imprisonment with BAL of .08 or higher with a minor in the vehicle, not more than 9 months

License Revocation - Minimum of 180 days

DUI School - 12 Hours

Additional DUI Convictions

The penalties listed above are for a first DUI conviction. With each additional DUI conviction the penalties in Florida are more severe. Complete details on Florida DUI penalties can be found in the Florida Drivers Manual.

Schools will be out from March 13th—17th in Pinellas County.

Please remember the kids will be out playing, riding their bikes, and having fun. Watch out for the children while driving.

We have beautiful parks and beaches to take advantage of. There is also the splash playground . Don't forget Tarpon Springs Library is a great place to spend some time reading or doing crafts.

If you decide to have the kids in the pool never leave them alone. Above all have some family fun and be safe.



SMOKING

Information provided by TSPFD.

If you smoke, smoke outside. Most home fires caused by smoking materials start inside the home. Put your cigarettes out in a can filled with sand.

Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. The cigarette really needs to be completely stubbed out in an ashtray. Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.

Check for cigarette butts. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don't put ashtrays on them. If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.

Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster.

Be alert - don't smoke in bed! If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first.

THINGS TO DO IN TARPON SPRINGS

WWW.TARPONARTS.ORG for current shows and events at the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center and Cultural Center.

Sunset Beach concert
March 2 7-9 PM

First Friday
Downtown Tarpon Ave
March 3rd 5-9 PM

Greek Independence parade
March 19 12 noon

Outdoor Movie
March 24 Craig Park 6PM
Zootopia

BEACH CLEANUP

The City of Tarpon Springs is teaming up with Keep Pinellas Beautiful to clean up Sunset Beach. Please wear closed toed shoes and rubber gloves.



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WWW.TSPD.US

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