



# Tarpon Springs Police Department

*Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing*



June 2019

## Crime Watch Newsletter

### Illegal Fireworks

#### Exploding Fireworks Are Illegal In Florida

Under Florida law, only sparklers, approved by the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal, are legal for consumer usage. It is illegal to use exploding and/or flying fireworks in Florida, which include: shells and mortars, multiple tube devices, Roman candles, firecrackers and bottle rockets. As a general guideline, anything that flies through the air or explodes is not allowed for consumer use. Floridians should not sign "waivers" in order to purchase fireworks. Signing a waiver will not clear a consumer of responsibility should you be caught illegally using fireworks, which is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

To celebrate safely, Floridians should follow these precautions:

Use sparklers and other legal novelties on a flat, hard surface. Do not light them on grass.

Light only one item at a time and never attempt to re-light a "dud."

Don't use any unwrapped items or items that may have been tampered with.

Keep a fire extinguisher or water hose on-hand for emergencies. It's a good idea to drop used sparklers in a bucket of water.

Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse.

Never carry sparklers in your pocket or light them in metal or glass containers.

**PLEASE NOTE IF YOU HAVE A VERERENTHAT RESIDES NEAR BY PLEASE RESPECT THE FACTTHATTHIS CAN BE A VERY DISTURBING SOUND..**



*Happy 4th of  
July.*

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# Fireworks and Pets

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With crowds of unfamiliar people and loud, scary noises, the Fourth of July can make even the most laid-back, four-legged family members apprehensive and unpredictable.

“Research shows that more pets are lost on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year and animal shelters are most crowded after the holiday, filled with lost dogs and cats,” said Aimee Gilbreath, executive director, Michelson Found Animals Foundation. “Taking steps to protect your pet can help ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for the whole family.”

These tips can help keep your pet comfortable and secure:

**Get identification tags.** A collar and external ID tags are quick and easy ways to identify your pet if lost, and they make him or her instantly recognizable as someone’s pet. What information you provide on the tags may vary depending on your personal security concerns, but at the very least, include a phone number. If you’re concerned about noisy dangling tags, or the tags snagging and pulling loose, choose a flat style that affixes to the fabric of the collar.

**Get your pet a microchip and register it.** A registered microchip is one of the best ways to identify a lost pet who has slipped out of his or her collar. However, pet owners may falsely assume that just because their pet has a microchip, they’ve taken the necessary steps. It’s critical your pet’s microchip is registered with your current contact information, and Found Animals recommends updating your contact info anytime you move or change phone numbers. If you’ve adopted your pet from a rescue or other organization, it’s important to transfer the chip registration. Register your pet’s microchip for free at [found.org](http://found.org).

**Avoid the crowds.** Avoid bringing your pooch to crowded events, parades and other gatherings with a lot of commotion or people. A combination of heat, loud noises, packed spaces and scorching blacktops can be stressful and harmful to your pet’s health. It’s especially wise to avoid bringing your pets to firework events, as they could panic and run.

## 4th OF JULY FIRE TIP FROM TSFD

Parents..... Did you know sparklers reach 1000 PLUS degrees? Sparklers are responsible for most of the injuries to children age 5 and younger.



For illegal robo callers, the goal isn't always getting you to answer. Sometimes, it's getting you to call back.

Every so often, your phone may ring once and then stop. If that happens to you, and you do not recognize the number, do not return the call. You may be the target of a "one-ring" phone scam.

One-ring calls may appear to be from phone numbers somewhere in the United States, including three initial digits that resemble U.S. area codes. But savvy scammers often use international numbers from regions that also begin with three-digit codes – for example, "232" goes to Sierra Leone and "809" goes to the Dominican Republic. Scammers may also use spoofing techniques to further mask the number in your caller ID display.

If you call back, you risk being connected to a phone number outside the U.S. As a result, you may wind up being charged a fee for connecting, along with significant per-minute fees for as long as they can keep you on the phone. These charges may show up on your bill as premium services, international calling, or toll-calling.

Variations of this scam rely on phony voice-mail messages urging you to call a number with an unfamiliar area code to "schedule a delivery" or to notify you about a "sick" relative.

## How to avoid this scam

Don't answer or return any calls from numbers you don't recognize.

Before calling unfamiliar numbers, check to see if the area code is international.

If you do not make international calls, ask your phone company to block outgoing international calls on your line.

Always be cautious, even if a number appears authentic.

### Filing a complaint with the FCC

If you are billed for a call you made as a result of this scam, first try to resolve the matter with your telephone company. If you are unable to resolve it directly, you can file a complaint with the FCC at no cost.

### Filing a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission

# Things To Do

## FAMILY DOUBLE DARE

June 29, 5pm – 8pm Where Tarpon Springs Community Center 400 S. Huey Avenue

Grab your family and come to the Tarpon Springs Community Center for a night of family fun. We will have competitive games, activities and more! Dinner will be available for purchase.

## 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

Thu, July 4, 10am – 2pm Craig Park, Tarpon Springs, Traditional family picnic in the park to celebrate America. Activities for family fun. More information at [www.tsrdonline.com](http://www.tsrdonline.com) or call 727-942-5628.

## FIREWORKS

Thu, July 4, 7:30pm – 9:00pm Where Fred Howard Park, 1700 Sunset Dr, Tarpon Springs, best viewed from Fred Howard Park



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPT.

444 SOUTH HUEY AVENUE

TARPON SPRINGS, 34689

EMERGENCY # 911

NON EMERGENCY:

(727) 938-2849

CRIME PREVENTION :

(727) 937-8753

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