



Tarpon Springs Police Department

Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing



March 2019

Crime Watch Newsletter

Protect yourself against Medicare scams

Getting calls from people claiming to be from Medicare, asking for money or personal information? Callers who say they need your information or money so you can get a new Medicare card does not come from Medicare.

Hang up. If someone calls claiming to be from Medicare, asking for your Social Security number or bank information to get your new card or new benefits, that's a scam.

Don't give personal information to a caller claiming to be from Medicare. You can't trust caller id. These calls can be spoofed so they look like they're coming from Medicare even when they're not. Before you give any personal information, initiate your own call to Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.



Happy Easter

From

Tarpon Springs Police

Department



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Crime Prevention Tips To Secure Your Home

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Case the joint.

Walk around your home with the eyes of a burglar. Look for weaknesses—sliding doors that could be jimmied off the track, glass that could be broken to gain entry, window unit air conditioners that could be easily removed, and so forth. A committed burglar can usually find a way into a house, but you can make it more difficult for them, and this starts with knowing your property and potential entry points for a break-in. Take a walk around the outside as well and note what pricey items are in view, tempting would-be burglars.

Lock the door.

It may seem obvious, but the BLS reports that more than 40 percent of burglaries don't include forced entry—meaning people are leaving doors and windows unlocked. Install deadbolts on all doors; double cylinders are best, since they require a key on both sides of the door, and it prevents burglars from breaking a pane of glass, reaching around, and unlocking the door. (Check your area's fire code first; some places don't allow double cylinder locks because they can trap inhabitants inside in the event of a fire.) And remember to lock the door leading from the garage to the house, even if the garage door is down. (It's easy to manipulate.)

Don't hide a key.

One day, you forget your keys, and you decide it's a good idea to hide one under the doormat or one of those fake rocks. That's a terrible idea. Get rid of that idea right now, and pretend you never even considered it. Give a spare key to a neighbor instead. If your closest neighbor lives 10 miles away, and you absolutely must leave a spare key outside, put it in a combination lockbox.

Don't label your keys or mailbox.

If you lose your key and it has your address written on it, well—you do the math. It's pretty easy to become a target. Also, don't write your last name on your mailbox. It's easy to look you up, find your phone numbers, maybe even your workplace, and begin to track your movements in preparation to enter the home when you're not around.

Create and practice a home **fire** escape plan with two ways **out** of every room. ... Teach **children** to “**get low and go**” **if there** is smoke **when** they are leaving **the** home. Practice feeling **the** door, doorknob and cracks around **the** door with **the** back of your hand to see **if** they are too hot. Help your **children** practice this step.



Be modest.

Prevent your home from being a target by tucking away expensive items. Keep both the car and the bike into the garage. After purchasing a new piece of expensive electronic equipment, dispose of the box directly instead of leaving it next to your trash can—which lets would-be burglars know you have something shiny and new that could bring in great cash on the black market. While you're at it, consider keeping expensive jewelry and your mattress full of cash somewhere safer, like a safe deposit box.

Create the illusion you're always home.

The majority of burglaries take place when people aren't home, particularly during the day, while the victims are at work. Deter burglars by creating the impression that you're always home: Leave on lights, the radio, or the television. And if you're going on vacation for awhile, don't advertise your absence. Arrange for someone to pick up the mail, newspapers, mow the lawn, shovel the snow, and set out trash cans regularly.

Secure the area surrounding your house.

Secure the yard: Trim bushes and trees to discourage burglars from using them as hiding places. Avoid planting low shrubs in front of windows; you may even consider planting thorny shrubs for an added deterrent. And be sure to add lighting outside your home.

Get to know the neighbors.

Tight-knit communities suffer fewer burglaries because people look out for each other and strangers stick out. If your neighborhood doesn't already have a Neighborhood Watch Program, consider starting one. Studies have found they reduce crime and violence in a given neighborhood.

Install an alarm system—or at least a sign.

Alarm systems are available at a number of price points, but an effective one should include sensors at entry points, motion detectors inside the house, and a loud outdoor alarm that alerts the entire neighborhood when someone has forced entry. If you don't want to go all-out, fake out would-be burglars by sticking a your yard. The threat keep them from trying.



one has forced entry. If you out, fake out would-be bur-home security system sign in of an alarm may be enough to

THINGS TO DO IN TARPON SPRINGS

Tarpon Springs Easter Eggstravaganza

Hop on over to the sports complex for a spectacular egg hunt. We will have children's activities, crafts, bounce houses and more!

Location: Sports Complex

Day & Time: Saturday, April 13th, from 10am-1pm

Fee: FREE

Greek Independence Day Parade

March 31, 1:00pm – 3:30pm Parade Route: Lemon Street / Pinellas Avenue / Dodecanese Boulevard / Hope Street For Information: 727-937-4637 or 727-858-2630

Sunset Beach Concert Series

Thu, April 4, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Sunset Beach, Tarpon Springs

First Friday Fri, April 5, 6pm – 10pm East Tarpon Avenue

Arts and Crafts Festival

Sat, April 13, 10am – 6pm Dodecanese Boulevard

Garden Club Plant Sale

April 13, 10am – 3pm, Where: Mother Meres Parking Lot, E. Tarpon Avenue



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPT.

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TARPON SPRINGS, 34689

EMERGENCY # 911

NON EMERGENCY:

(727) 938-2849

CRIME PREVENTION :

(727) 937-8753

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT

WWW.TSPD.US

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