



Tarpon Springs Police Department

Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing



May 2019

Crime Watch Newsletter

WATER SAFETY

Pools, lakes, ponds, and beaches mean summer fun and cool relief from hot weather. But water also can be dangerous for kids if parents don't take the proper precautions. Nearly 1,000 kids die each year by drowning. And most drownings happen in home swimming pools. It is the second leading cause of accidental death for people between the ages of 5 and 24.

The good news is there are many ways to keep your kids safe in the water and make sure that they take the right precautions when they're on their own.

Keeping Kids Safe

Kids need constant supervision around water whether the water is in a bathtub, a wading pool, an ornamental fish pond, a swimming pool, a spa, the beach, or a lake.

Young children are especially at risk they can drown in less than 2 inches (6 centimeters) of water. That means drowning can happen where you'd least expect it the sink, the toilet bowl, fountains, buckets, inflatable pools, or small bodies of standing water around your home, such as ditches filled with rainwater. Always watch children closely when they're in or near any water.

If you're not a swimmer yourself, it's a good idea to take lessons and learn how to swim. Kids over 4 years old should learn too (check the local recreation center for classes taught by qualified instructors). Kids who are younger (but older than age 1) also might benefit from swimming lessons, but check with your doctor first.

Don't assume that a child who knows how to swim isn't at risk for drowning. All kids need to be supervised in the water, no matter what their swimming skills. Infants, toddlers, and weak swimmers should have an adult swimmer within arm's reach to provide "touch supervision."

Invest in proper-fitting, Coast Guard-approved flotation devices (life vests) and have kids wear them whenever near water. Check the weight and size recommendations on the label, then have your child try it on to make sure it fits snugly. For kids younger than 5 years old, choose a vest with a strap between the legs and head support the collar will keep the child's head up and face out of the water. Inflatable vests and arm devices such as water wings are not effective protection against drowning.



*Remember
Those Who
Served.*

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SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM

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Claiming to be a government authority is a tried and true way that scammers trick people into sending money. Among the most common government imposters have been scammers pretending to be the IRS until now. In the past few months, the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel Network database has seen Social Security Administration (SSA) imposter reports skyrocket while reports of IRS imposters have declined sharply. In the shady world of government imposters, the SSA scam may be the new IRS scam.

SSA imposters tell you your Social Security number has been suspended because of suspicious activity, or because it's been involved in a crime. They ask you to confirm your Social Security number, or they may say you need to withdraw money from the bank and to store it on gift cards or in other unusual ways for "safekeeping." You may be told your accounts will be seized or frozen if you don't act quickly.

These scammers often use robo calls to reach people, and the message can be hard to ignore. You may be told to "press 1" to speak to a government "support representative" for help reactivating your Social Security number. They also use caller ID spoofing to make it look like the Social Security Administration really is calling. With such trickery, these scammers are good at convincing people to give up their Social Security numbers and other personal information.

SCHOOL WILL BE OUT SOON! WATCH FOR CHILDREN PLAYING, BIKING, AND SKATING.

KEEP EXTRA CARE WHILE DRIVING BECAUSE KIDS DON'T ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION. KEEP THEM SAFE

SUMMER FIRE TIP FROM TSFD

CAMPFIRE SAFETY

Never leave a fire unattended.

Never have a campfire near your tent.

Always pour water over fire when you are finished .

Never start the fire near dry leaves or trees.

Always know if you are allowed to even have a campfire.



This one does NOT want to go away!!!

In 2018, the Consumer Sentinel Network has seen a striking increase in the median dollar amount that people 70 and over are saying they lost to fraud. Digging into the data, we found some common stories with an unusual twist: people 70 and older report mailing huge amounts of cash to people who pretended to be their grandchildren.

People 70 and over rarely report to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that they paid a scammer with cash. But for one particular type of fraud – family and friend imposters – fully 25% of people 70 and over who reported to the FTC how they paid money told us they sent cash.

We call these family and friend imposter scams, but you may know them as the “grandparent scam” and with good reason. People 70 and over report that the scammer posed as a grandchild, usually a grandson, about 70% of the time.

People from all age groups reported median individual losses of about \$2,000 to family and friend imposters – far higher than the median loss of \$462 reported to us this year for all fraud types. But the story is much worse for people 70 and over who sent cash – they reported median individual losses of \$9,000.

When we looked at fraud reports from all age groups, and from all Sentinel data contributors, we found that aggregate losses to family and friend imposters have increased. Losses over the past year reached \$41 million, as compared to \$26 million in the previous year.

Like many scams, these start with a phone call using some common ploys. In about half of the reports of cash payments, people said the caller claimed to be in jail or other legal trouble. About a third of these reports mentioned a so-called car accident (some mentioning texting or drinking while driving). In both cases, the callers play on people’s emotions and sense of loyalty: they may be told they’re the only person trusted enough to call for help, and they’re often told not to tell anyone.

If you’ve mailed cash, report it right away to the Postal Service or whichever shipping company you used. Some people have been able to stop delivery by acting quickly and giving a tracking number. Also tell the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). ~~Learn more about this and other imposter scams at [FTC.gov/imposters](https://www.ftc.gov/imposters).~~

Things To Do

Mon, May 27, 11am – 12pm Craig Park, Tarpon Springs Ceremony at the Craig Park War Memorial with BBQ provided following the service by the Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge #1719

Thu, June 6, 7pm – 9pm Sunset Beach Concert, Tarpon Springs, Alcohol and pets are prohibited. Parking is limited onsite, so a courtesy shuttle will deliver concert goers to and from the beach and Tarpon Springs High School.

First Friday Fri, June 7, 6pm – 10pm Tarpon Avenue, E Tarpon Ave,

Opa Palooza Fri, June 14,- 16th 10am – 6pm, Dodecanese Blvd, Tarpon

FAMILY DOUBLE DARE

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.

Location: Tarpon Springs Community Center

Day & Time: Saturday, June 29nd from 5-8pm

Fee: FREE



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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