

Crime Prevention Tips From:



Crime Prevention Tips

February Is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

On January 31, 2011, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation naming February, 2011, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The President calls upon “all Americans to support efforts in their communities and schools, and in their own families, to empower young people to develop healthy relationships throughout their lives and to engage in activities that prevent and respond to teen dating violence.” Every year, approximately one in four teenagers report being the victim of verbal, physical, emotional or sexual violence.



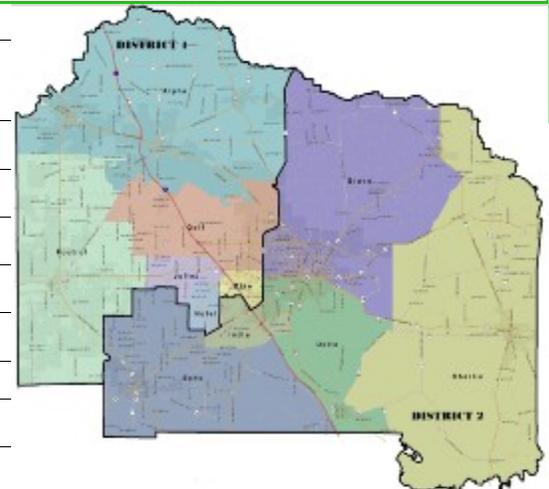
Victims of dating violence can experience long-term behavioral and health problems. Teens who are involved in an abusive relationship can perpetuate dangerous negative patterns into future relationships. Adolescents and young adults are often hesitant to report physical, sexual or emotional abuse. In order to prevent abusive behavior before it starts, parents, teachers and mentors must instill the importance of mutual respect in relationships. One way that dating violence proliferates is through the use of digital technology such as cell phones, email and social networking websites. These are widely used by teenagers in their everyday lives, but also have a vast potential for devastating abuse such as stalking, harassment, and other victimization. Teens can receive immediate confidential advice and/or referrals from the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474 or online at www.loveisrespect.org. Other resources available are www.OVW.USDOJ.gov/teen_dating_violence.htm and the Centers for Disease Control at www.CDC.gov/ChooseRespect. Locally, Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network has a Crisis Line at 1-800-393-SAFE (7233) or 352-377-8255. Their web address is www.peacefulpaths.org.



Sadie Danner

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Watch Out for Spyware Symptoms



The Internet Education Foundation presents symptoms that may reveal a computer is infected with spyware:

★Sluggish computer: If you've noticed that your PC has a serious drop in its responsiveness lately, it could mean that spyware is draining its computing power.

★New "favorites": Spyware will often add "favorites" of its own to your browser's favorites' folder. If you notice an unusual number of new favorites and are not sure how they got there, spyware may be to blame.

★Fishy pop-up ads: Pop-up ads from spyware software are designed to look like they've been served up by the legitimate Web site you're visiting. As a result, you may not recognize them as a symptom of infection. There's no way to be sure, but if the contents of the ads seem strange -- or if you're getting pop-up ads when you're not even surfing the Internet -- it's very likely that they are being served up by spyware software.

★Change of your default home page: One of the oldest spyware tricks is to automatically change your Web browser's default or start-up home page. This is the Web page that appears when you start your browser or click the "home" button.

★Unauthorized 1-900 number charges: If your phone bill charges you for 1-900 phone calls you didn't make, you may have fallen victim to a particularly devious form of spyware. These programs will hang-up your normal Internet connection and instruct your computer to dial a 1-900 number -- silently. If you have high speed this can still happen if you have a phone line attached to your modem.

Protecting Yourself From Spyware

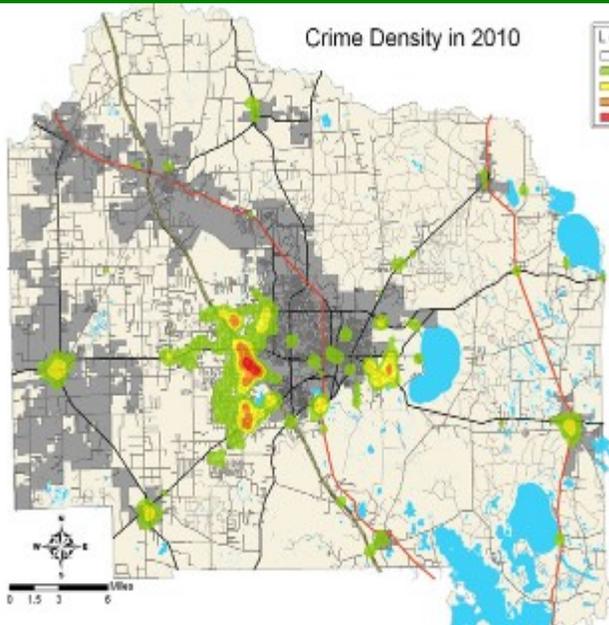
Without help, you have no way to prevent adware or spyware. Old antivirus programs don't even prevent adware, since they didn't consider them viruses or worms. You usually give permission to install adware, although you do so unwittingly because adware and spyware pushers are deceptive. Adware doesn't behave like a typical virus or worm. They don't usually do actual damage to your computer, other than wrecking its performance, and they don't spread themselves using your address book. (Although some kinds of adware can break your anti-spyware tools.)

Things are changing for the better, though. Most popular antivirus products now include adware and spyware scanning. Also, some Internet service providers (ISPs) are introducing protection from adware and spyware. For example, America Online (AOL) announced in January spyware protection as an enhancement for AOL 9.0 Optimized. EarthLink also provides adware and spyware protection through the latest version of its software. Of course, to take advantage of the built-in protection that antivirus products and ISPs provide, you have to update to the latest versions, and keep the anti-spyware/adware signatures current.

~~ Deputy Leo Lowe

Sources FCPA and Microsoft sites.

Intelligence Bureau Crime Tip



Tracking Crime Rates

As usual at this time of year we have been busy in January looking at the stats for the last year and producing annual reports. One of the things that is interesting to look at is the change in crime. One way to do this is to generate a density map. The map to the left is a map of the crime density in 2010. It is set up to show just those areas with generally high rates of crime. This type of map is useful for drawing your attention to problems areas. But what if you want to compare one period to another? One way to do this is to generate two densities, one for each period and use math functions to subtract the value of one from the other.

~~ Mike Dwyer

Solicitation an Annoyance and Danger



Every one of us has experienced it. Someone comes to our door selling something or hangs a flyer on our door. This is not something you should tolerate. Many times these “solicitors” are more than they seem. They could be looking for homes and vehicles to break into or they could be trying to defraud an unsuspecting victim. If your neighborhood does not have “No Soliciting” signs you should consider posting them. No soliciting signs give Deputies the ability to challenge violators and file charges for the violation.



Rules for dealing with “Solicitors”

- ★ Post signs throughout you neighborhood and especially at the entrances for “No Soliciting”
- ★ Never open your door for a solicitor/stranger! Use a 180 degree peephole, also known as a door viewer.
- ★ Never give out personal information without knowing who you are dealing with.
- ★ Ask for identification from the individual as well as the company they represent.
- ★ Never allow a stranger into your home.
- ★ Call 352-955-1818 every time you see a suspicious person or a “solicitor” in your neighborhood. Give a thorough description and direction of travel.

Alachua County Code Sec. 118.03. Beggars, panhandlers, peddlers, solicitors, canvassers; restrictions and requirements. (a) All persons will terminate solicitation activities in residential areas each day by 7:00 p.m. or sundown, whichever is earlier, and will not resume their activities in residential areas before 9:00 a.m. the next day.

(b) All persons begging, panhandling, peddling, soliciting, or canvassing are prohibited from engaging in their activities on residential premises in residential areas where a notice stating "No Solicitors" or "No Solicitation" is posted in plain view. Violation of this ordinance is a second degree misdemeanor and is an arrest able offense.

Please consider starting a Neighborhood Crime Watch to learn more information on how to report this and other crimes. Call the ACSO Crime Prevention Unit at (352)374-1800 or email llowe@alachuasheriff.org

Traffic Crime Prevention Tip



Click IT Or Ticket time is coming up again March 15th to the 31st.

Did you know that worldwide each year over a million people are killed by traffic accidents? The use of seat belts is a primary preventative measure to reduce an individual's chances of being killed in a vehicular accident . There are a host of other interesting facts concerning traffic safety, car insurance rates, and laws you may not be aware of:

- ★ Greater than 9 out of 10 road fatalities take place in poorer and average-income nations, even though these nations account for only slightly less than half of the registered vehicles worldwide.
- ★ Traffic accidents are the leading killer of children aged 10 to 19.
- ★ Walkers, bicycle riders, and motorcyclists, along with their passengers, make up about 46% of traffic fatalities around the globe each year. These vulnerable road users are disproportionately distributed in low-income countries.
- ★ Velocity control is critical to the reduction of traffic accidents, especially among vulnerable road users. Not even 1/3 of all nations have initiated required steps, such as the designation of stretches of reduced-speed road, to decrease vehicle velocities in city environments.
- ★ Drunkenness contributes to the likelihood of fatal or serious crashes. Authorities suggest that no more than 0.05 gram per deciliter alcohol be present in an adult driver. More than half of the world's nations fail to enact laws enforcing this limit.
- ★ If a front-seat passenger wears a seat-belt, he or she is between 40% and 65% less likely to die in an accident. The analogous range for rear-seat passengers is 25% to 75%. Less than 60% of nations mandate the use of front and rear seat-belts.
- ★ Child restraints, which include infant, child and booster seats, can increase the crash-survivability of young children between 54% and 80%. A majority of all nations do not have laws mandating the use of child restraints.
- ★ A high-quality bike or motorcycle helmet can cut road fatalities by 40% and serious injuries by over 70%. Only 4 nations in 10 require the use of such helmets.

Please be safe and Buckle Up!

~~ Deputy Leo Lowe

New Dangers New “Drugs”



“Spice” May Not Be So Nice

That is what some teenagers and young adults believe about an herbal incense marketed as a room deodorizer and sold at many smoke shops, convenience stores, gas stations, and on the internet. It goes by the name of K2, Spice, Blaze, Platinum, Oasis, Genie, Yucatan Fire, Solar Flare, Red X Dawn, and Mr. Nice Guy. Although it is labeled “not for human consumption,” it is widely known by its users as “legal pot.” The incense is treated with chemicals that are the synthetic equivalent of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Generally, smoked and inhaled, it produces similar effects as organic marijuana. There is no regularity to the amount of chemicals sprayed on the incense so those who smoke it are playing a game of chance.

It is estimated that it can be anywhere from 5 to 700 times more potent than organic marijuana, depending on the batch. It has recently generated more attention because some who use it are ending up in the emergency room. It can cause nausea, anxiety, panic attacks, depression, paranoia, hallucinations, a spike in blood pressure, a racing heart rate, seizures, and unresponsiveness.

Some kids are also becoming addicted to it. Use of it appears to be on the rise; with nearly 2000 calls received by poison control centers nationwide in 2010 regarding people who became ill after using synthetic marijuana.

Those who work with the local juvenile justice system and drug treatment programs admit that, for the most part, kids who use it are staying under the radar because most drug tests do not test for it. Kids have been using it to get high and are still passing drug tests. Those familiar with the issue locally say that drug tests that do test for synthetic marijuana are too expensive to use routinely – around \$40 each. And, since possession of synthetic marijuana is legal, the options have been limited in addressing this growing problem. The federal government has taken notice. At the end of last year the Drug Enforcement Administration announced it was taking emergency action to avoid an imminent public health crisis and started a process to ban five chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana. The chemicals have been temporarily classified as illegal drugs under federal statute in the same category as heroin and ecstasy. The new ban will last at least a year while the federal government studies whether the chemicals should be permanently banned. Although thirteen states have banned synthetic marijuana, Florida is not one of them. However, several Florida legislators have pledged to work this year toward passing legislation banning synthetic marijuana in Florida statute.

~~ Stacey Payne, FCPA Secretary & Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Mgr.



“Deadly” Bath Salts

Sold under such names as Ivory Wave, Bliss, White Lightning and Hurricane Charlie, the chemicals can cause hallucinations, paranoia, a rapid heart rate and suicidal thoughts.

In addition to bath salts, the chemicals can be found in plant foods that are sold legally at convenience stores and on the Internet. However, they aren't necessarily being used for the purposes on the label.

Florida became the second state in the nation to ban these drugs sold as "bath salts". State Attorney General Pam Bondi cited disturbing reports of violent drug users "with superhuman strength" in banning the so-called fake cocaine.

The white cocaine like powder, has sent dozens of users to emergency rooms and mental hospitals in recent months. Along with Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey and Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen, Bondi said her emergency order would add substances containing MDPV (methylenedioxypropylvalerone), a chemical found in the "bath salts," to the schedule of controlled substances – making it a third-degree felony to sell the products. Louisiana is the only other state that bans substances containing MDPV.

Click on the picture to see the latest ACSO Press release.

~~ Deputy Leo Lowe

Preventing Injuries Among Children and Adolescents



Injuries Among Children and Adolescents: Injury and violence are serious threats to the health and well-being of children and adolescents in the United States. Children and adolescents are at high risk for many injuries that can lead to death, injury, or disability. Listed below are some of the leading causes of juvenile injury.

Child Passenger Safety: Motor vehicle injuries are the greatest public health problem facing children today. In fact, they are the leading cause of death among children in the United States.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Infants and children should sit in an approved car seat until they exceed the size limit. #2 Children and adolescents should always wear a seat belt while the vehicle is in motion. #3 If children or adolescents resist wearing the seat belt it is recommended that parents or care givers show them educational materials that illustrate the need. Many informational sites can be found at: <http://www.shandssafekids.org/links/>. Shand's Safe Kids also offers car seat installation classes and inexpensive certified car seats.

Young Drivers: Two out of five deaths among U.S. teens are the result of a motor vehicle crash.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Education is key. You must sit down with your children and talk about the dangers. Many great videos can be found on YouTube by typing in the topic and "PSA" (Public Service Announcement) #2 Enforce the rules. If your teen violates the rules that you have set, don't let them take the car for a certain period of time. #3 Sign your teen up for the ACSO Teen Driver Challenge. This free program can save their lives. To learn more visit: http://www.alachuasheriff.org/programs/teen_driver.html

Water Safety: Drowning is the second leading cause of injury death among children 14 years and younger. And for every child who drowns, three receive emergency department care for non-fatal submersion injuries.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Never let your child swim alone. The buddy system works. #2 Make sure a responsible adult is supervising the activity. Many children become a little too brave when they are out of site of adults and are trying to show off.

Suicide: Suicide rates among youth remain very high. It is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 24.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Talk with your children regularly about their day. Make yourself approachable and allow them to talk without interruption. Pay close attention to changes in their behavior or spikes in their temper as this could be a warning sign. #2 Giving your children privacy is no longer a luxury you can afford. Be involved in their lives online and off. Know their friends and invite them over for dinner periodically. Know your children's friend's parents as well.

Child Maltreatment: Each year, hundreds of thousands of children suffer abuse or neglect. In most cases, the abuser is someone known to the child—a parent, family member, teacher, or regular caregiver. Survivors are at increased risk for smoking, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, suicide, and other negative health outcomes.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Talk with your children about the differences between good touch and bad touch. The stranger danger idea is ok as long as you explain that people they know can also be dangerous. Let them know that it is never their fault if something happens and they should always tell you if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or hurts them. #2 If you need resources on how to approach the topic visit <http://www.goodtouchbadtouch.com/> for more information. #3 Make sure your children know about "SAFE PLACE" and that Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies and Fire Fighters are safe people to talk to and go to if they are in trouble. #4 If you learn that a child is being abused please contact the Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-96ABUSE (22873)



Fireworks Related Injuries: Fireworks are fun and beautiful to look at however all fireworks are dangerous, especially to children.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Limit children's involvement with these dangerous items, even sparklers can cause serious burns. #2 There are alternatives such as going to see professional displays and letting them play with non incendiary alternatives such as glow sticks.

Playground Injuries: Each year in the United States, emergency departments treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and younger for playground-related injuries.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Supervise your children closely when they are at the playground. #2 Make sure they wear appropriate protective gear for the activity they will be doing. This is even more crucial as they become adolescents and their activities involve bicycles and skate boards.

Poisonings: Children, especially those under age 6, are more likely to have unintentional poisonings than older children and adults. Adolescents are also at risk for poisonings, both intentional and unintentional.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Keep chemicals and medications in locked or child proof cabinets or closets. #2 Do not allow children to take medicines without your supervision. #3 As children get older talk with them about the dangers of drugs and drug interactions. Many teenagers think it is fun to take prescribed drugs from parents, grandparents, etc. and have "Pharm Parties". Pharm or Pharmaceutical Parties involve taking two random medications with alcohol.

Preventing Injuries Among Children and Adolescents Cont.



Residential Fire-Related Injuries : Children ages 4 years and younger are at highest risk for residential fire deaths and injuries.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. Make sure to check the batteries monthly or have them integrated with your alarm system. **#2** Make an escape plan and map. Make sure you have a pre-set safe location to gather after you have escaped. Complete a few fire drills to make sure they will remember.

Traumatic Brain Injury: Among children ages 0 to 14 years, traumatic brain injuries (TBI) result in an estimated 400,000 emergency department visits each year. **ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1** Wearing the proper safety equipment for every activity can greatly reduce the injuries. Seatbelt in cars, bike helmet on bikes, etc.

Youth Violence : Youth violence typically involves children, adolescents, and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24. The young person can be the victim, the perpetrator, or both. Youth violence includes aggressive behaviors such as verbal abuse, bullying, hitting, slapping, or fist fighting.

ACSO Prevention Recommendations: #1 Talk with your children about bullying both online and off. Many suicides are the result of bullying. There are many great sites that can help you talk about the issue.

Please visit <http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids/>.

~~ Deputy Leo Lowe

Street Racing a National & Local Danger



Every night across the country, thousands of individuals take their modified vehicles on public roads to partake in illegal street racing. Street racing is any organized car race that takes place on public streets. It is also highly illegal. Street Racers regularly break established speed limits and numerous other traffic laws. Street Racers race on public streets with no thought towards un-involved drivers and pedestrians being put at risk.

Since street racing involves high speeds, racers rarely have full control over their vehicles. As such, they are often unable to respond to sudden changes

in the road, which may include the appearance of a lawful driver.

In addition to severely injuring themselves, racers may injure fellow motorists who use the road legally. The high speeds make collisions more dangerous, as there is more force behind the impact. Additionally, collisions may be head on, which are among the most dangerous of collisions.

Aside from potentially colliding with other drivers, racers also destroy roads because they travel in excess of 100 mph. Roads are not designed for this type of wear and tear, so they tend to deteriorate faster when individuals travel at extremely high speeds.

Just this January, an off duty ACSO Sergeant observed a group of people along the side of NW 59th Dr in the 14000 block with a video camera. The Sergeant observed two vehicles pass him traveling southbound. When the vehicles passed him, he stated that the vehicles sped up and appeared to intentionally drive in a reckless manner. The race subsequently resulted in the vehicle driving off the southbound shoulder and spinning out of control. Probable Cause was established and transferred to on duty Deputies who conducted separate interviews on all of the suspects. The primary conspirator and coordinator was determined through interviews, sworn written statements and on-view evidence which was a video showing an un-registered vehicle exhibiting a high rate of speed, then engaging in a high speed braking, evasive maneuver which resulted in the listed vehicle becoming stuck in a ditch. The video that was being produced was associated with a local car club and was meant to be posted on YouTube via the clubs webpage.

Please assist us with combating this life threatening problem. Report any suspicious activity along the roadways. Report drivers who are driving in a reckless manner. Stay on the phone with the 911 operators so as to give updates on direction of travel and continued violations. Give the best vehicle description you can. A tag number is good but try and observe the vehicle description first (Make, Model, Type of Vehicle, and Color). License tags are very hard to see and an improperly read tag is less helpful than reporting a few obvious details like dents, bumper stickers, etc.

Current Events Safety



The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office participated in a mock child abduction exercise on Wednesday, February 9. The purpose was to test the region's Child Abduction Response Team (CART) capabilities. The exercise was part of a two-day review by Fox Valley Technical College during which the team was seeking certification from the U.S. Department of Justice. The assessment tested the responses of CART team members and evaluated communication protocols, leads tracking systems, command post operations and search and rescue efforts.



The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is proud to present our newest public service announcement relating to internet safety. Internet Safety is a huge problem in today's high tech world. Please call the Crime Prevention Unit to schedule a Internet Safety Presentation for your group today. (352) 374-1800. Please click on the picture to see our new PSA.

The Alachua County's Most Wanted felony warrants are constantly being updated. If you have information on any of these wanted subjects, please call the Crime Line at 352-372-7867 or file your tips online at www.alachuasheriff.org. Help us fight crime in Alachua County. Please click on the picture to see more.



Former Florida Governor Charlie Crist proclaimed the 1st Friday of every February as School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Both the Mayor of Gainesville and the Alachua County Commission have proclaimed February 4th as that School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. This year's event was held at the Martin Luther King Center located at 1028 NE 14th Street at 9:30 am. Breakfast was served in honor of all crossing guards. This year marks the fourth anniversary of the combined celebration involving crossing guards from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Police Department, and Alachua Police Department. Several proclamations were read, honoring the guards, by the various governing bodies of the agencies involved. School Crossing Guards work every day that school is in session without concern for what the weather is like. They educate children on how to properly and safely cross the street. Watching for gaps in traffic to minimize the disruption of the flow, their number one priority is the safety of the children. Crossing Guards fill a civilian position and they have no traffic enforcement authority. The appreciation ceremony is always special as it draws all the agencies together and shows appreciation for those that keep our children safe on their way to and from school daily.

Thank you for reading our publication. Please submit any feed back to crimepreventiontips@alachuasheriff.org. The Sheriff's Office has many programs please take a look at the links below and utilize the services that we provide.

[Teen Driver Challenge FREE \(Click Here\)](#)

[Rape Aggression Defense Course FREE \(Click Here\)](#)

[Explorer Program \(Click Here\)](#)

[Beat the Heat \(Click Here\)](#)

[Sexual Offender Search \(Click Here\)](#)

[Crime Reports.Com \(Click Here\)](#)

[Most Wanted \(Click Here\)](#)



The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is dedicated to making you safer. Please consider having a FREE home security survey or starting a residential crime watch. The Crime Prevention Unit also provides public safety classes on multiple topics including: internet safety, pedestrian safety, robbery prevention, good touch bad touch / stranger danger, and many more. To schedule any of the services listed above please call: **352-374-1800**.