

# Crime Prevention Tips From: SHERIFF SADIE DARNELL



The Alachua County Sheriff's Office recognizes that the responsibility for making your home and family safe from crime extends beyond routine Sheriff's Office patrol. This is why we believe in Neighborhood Crime Watch; a cooperative effort between the citizens of Alachua County and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. Residential burglary is a major crime that can be effectively combated with neighborhood awareness. It is difficult for the law enforcement to effectively cover all residential areas. It is also difficult for law enforcement to completely familiarize themselves with all the persons, vehicles and surroundings in a area. Concerned citizens can become the eyes and ears of their Sheriff's Office, by immediately reporting suspicious persons, vehicles, and activities. The duties of the citizen does not include apprehension of any suspects. Apprehension is still the responsibility of law enforcement. Remember, an informed, alert, and active community is absolutely necessary to win the war on crime. Please visit our web site [WWW.ALACHUASHERIFF.ORG](http://WWW.ALACHUASHERIFF.ORG) to learn more or call the Alachua County Crime Prevention Unit at :352-374-1800.

*Sadie Darnell*

# Crime Prevention Tips

## Essential Tip



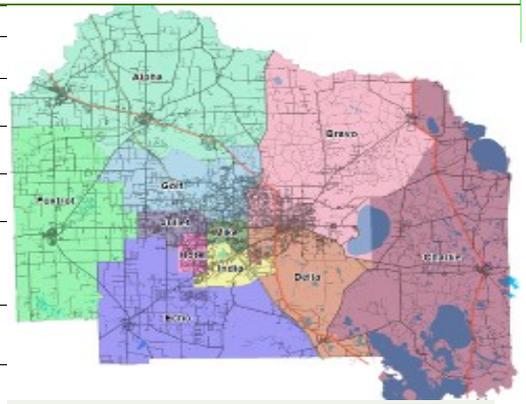
We are always looking for a better way to protect those we love. Whenever something important happens we call our loved ones. When a tragedy happens we are not always able to call. If a child goes missing it takes time to distribute a picture so that Law Enforcement can start the search. **Drivers Licenses and ID Cards** can help with both of these concerns. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues Drivers Licenses and ID Cards. These cards have vital information for Law Enforcement and they now can link us to your Emergency Contact Information. Names and phone numbers of loved ones can greatly speed up the notification process at accident scenes. ID cards for children can give Law Enforcement the ability to quickly pull up a photograph in case of an emergency. If you have a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, or Down Syndrome you may have to worry about them wandering. A current ID card and Emergency Contact Information can speed up the search and notification process. Please visit <https://www8.flhsmv.gov/eci/> and add or update the emergency contact information on your card. If you are a parent or have a loved one who is at risk of wandering please consider updating or obtaining an ID card for them. To obtain an ID you will need to bring several items that prove your identity and or your guardianship. You can obtain a personalized check list for what to bring at: <http://www.gathergoget.com/checklist/>. If you do not have access to a computer you can call 850-617-2000.



~~ Deputy Leo Lowe

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# Home Crime Prevention Tip



## Keep Your Family Safe from Kitchen Fires

The Holidays are the time of year when family and friends gather together to enjoy a tasty meal and to celebrate the good things in our lives. Don't let a dangerous kitchen fire spoil such a happy occasion! Did you know that cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States? There is a marked increase in these types of fires during the holidays. Holiday cooking related fires in residential structures cause more property damage and claim more lives than residential structure fires on other days.



### Top Kitchen Safety Tips for Preventing Cooking Fires

Never leave hot food or appliances unattended while cooking.

Always be alert when you are cooking and not under the influence of medication or alcohol.

Keep anything that can catch on fire at least 3 feet from the stove, toaster oven, or other heat source.

Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.

Do not wear loose fitting clothes that can catch fire if you stand too close to a burner.

When frying, grilling, or broiling food stay in the kitchen. When baking or simmering check food frequently.

### Preventing Burns and Scalds

To prevent hot food or liquid spills, use the stove's back burner and/or turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.

All appliance cords should be kept coiled and away from counter edges.

Use oven mitts or potholders when moving hot food.

Open containers that have been in the microwave slowly and away from the face.

Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.

### Keeping Kids Safe

Create a 3 foot Kid Free Zone around the stove.

Never hold a child while cooking, drinking, or carrying hot foods or liquids.

Young children should be more than 3 feet from any place where there is hot food, drinks, pans, or trays.

Hot items should be kept from the edge of counters and tables.

Do not use a tablecloth or placemat if very young children are in the home.

When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely and always with help from an adult. ~ ~ SafeKids.org

# Intelligence Bureau Crime Tip



## Accessing "Open Wi-Fi" Could Open Your Computer Accounts to Hackers

On Oct 24 Eric Butler released a plug in for Firefox called Firesheep. It is freely downloadable at <http://codebutler.com/firesheep>. The purpose of this plug-in is to force web site developers and businesses that offer free Wi-Fi to finally take security more seriously. What Fire-Sheep does is make it trivial to hack into someone's account that is not using a secure connection. According to Eric the problem is, "It's extremely common for websites to protect your password by encrypting the initial login, but surprisingly uncommon for websites to encrypt everything else. This leaves the cookie (and the user) vulnerable. HTTP session hijacking (sometimes called "Side-Jacking") is when an attacker gets a hold of a user's cookie, allowing them to do anything the user can do on a particular website. On an open wireless network, cookies are basically shouted through the air, making these attacks extremely easy."

The solution to this is simplistic, but requires the web site owner and the shops that offer free Wi-Fi to each do one thing. The web sites need to move all their services to SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) (https) connections. This is trivial and has been done by sites such as Gmail already. This defeats the attack by encrypting the cookie that identifies the user to the site for future transactions. The Wi-Fi hotspot providers need to enable WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) encryption on their free Wi-Fi routers. This will require a login to be used to access the hotspot, but that can be posted in the business and no one need be inconvenienced by this. WPA defeats this attack by making all connections unique, not shared.

Since no data is sent to other clients the cookie cannot be stolen. If you run a web site please consider moving to a complete SSL connection. If you frequent places that offer free Wi-Fi, please encourage the business to switch to WPA.

Either of these will make the attack impossible. If you want to learn more about the issue please check <http://twit.tv/sn272> you can watch or listen to the podcast of security expert Steve Gibson discussing this and other security issues.

There is also a link on the page to Steve's website which has transcripts.

~ ~ Crime Analyst Michael Dwyer

# Family Crime Prevention Tip



**Childproofing for the Holidays** Most parents understand the importance of childproofing their homes. Gates on stairs, using smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and keeping medicines and poisons out of reach are fairly standard in many homes. In addition to the risks of holiday decorations, younger children can get into trouble if they visit a home during the holidays (or any time of year) that isn't childproofed. It is especially likely that a home isn't childproofed if you are visiting family & friends who don't usually have children in the house. In addition to not having safety locks on cabinets, gates on stairs, covers on electrical outlets, etc., they may also have prescription medications that aren't in a child resistant container. Please be especially watchful for:

- ★ Do they have a pool? Does it have a fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate?
- ★ Are there guns in the house? Are they secured or unloaded with the bullets locked separately?
- ★ Are there small objects, such as hard candy or nuts in candy dishes, where younger children can get them?
- ★ Are there gates on the stairs?
- ★ Are medications, poisons and household cleaners out of reach?
- ★ Do they have a pet that may harm the children, such as an aggressive dog, snakes, etc?
- ★ If your child has food allergies, will they be serving that food?



You may think that you will just watch your child more closely, even if the house isn't childproofed, but this is hard if there are a lot of family members and friends present and the kids are all playing together.

**Toy Safety** The following tips will help consumers choose appropriate toys:

- ★ Select safe toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- ★ Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- ★ For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- ★ Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- ★ Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- ★ Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.
- ★ If your child is going to be getting something that he can ride, such as a bicycle, inline skates, scooter, or a skateboard, be sure that he also gets the appropriate protective equipment, including a helmet and pads.
- ★ Educate your child on the dangers of toy guns, paint ball, and BB guns if you intend to purchase them. Many toy guns look like real guns and many real guns look like toys. This can pose a real danger to children and Law Enforcement when we interact.

# Traffic Crime Prevention Tip



In addition to the usual stresses of the holidays comes the added load of traffic woes. This boost in gridlock hits right when the days are their shortest and the weather is the most unpredictable. To avoid the pitfalls and potholes of winter-holiday driving, take a look at our handy tips.

**Plan Ahead to Avoid a Bumpy Road Allow extra time in your schedule.** Bad traffic can often be avoided with a little preparation. The heaviest travel occurs the days immediately before and after Christmas, and New Year's Day. Consider taking an extra day off so that you aren't stuck in the pack. Also, give yourself a break from holiday stress by getting the bulk of your shopping done well before the holiday.

**Vehicle Maintenance can save your life.** Breaking down in the dark, in bad weather, or in the cold can crush the holiday spirit. **Take your car in for a winter "check-up."** Your mechanic can inspect your anti-freeze, battery, windshield wipers, and other cold-weather components. You also want to be sure that your tire pressure is at the recommended levels, as tires can be hazardous in wet weather when they are filled to improper levels.

**Think before you drive.** As much as we may want to think we are isolated in our steel and glass bubbles, driving is really a social interaction without words. Many people are worried, preoccupied, hurried, distracted, and all those states of mind that make them easily agitated and less careful. On the road, this means that you should **be more vigilant than usual**. Give people more distance, and be forgiving when someone does something rash or absent-minded. Avoid confrontations, and try not to let other drivers bring you out of the happy holiday zone.

**Take it Easy While Driving. Don't dread the drive.** Consider your travel to be part of the vacation. Rather than getting cranky from thinking that you are losing vacation time, you can try to find ways to enjoy the time you spend driving. This might include playing favorite holiday music or pre-recorded holiday "talking books," singing holiday carols, or chatting with your passengers as if you were sitting on the couch back at home.

**Prepare for on-the-road emergencies.** If you're traveling in bad weather rain, wind, snow, you'll want to prepare for problems by packing flares, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlight, water, and snacks. It is also useful to have a shovel to dig out your wheels in case you get stuck, and a bag of kitty litter to pour under the wheels for traction. Remember to pack the cell phone for emergencies. Be careful about using it while driving in holiday traffic or in bad weather.

**Drive responsibly** Once you get on the road, drive slowly and carefully. It's the time of year when to-do lists can run long, and we all have places where we would much rather be than on the road, but a defensive approach pays off in the long run. And--this one should be obvious--don't drink and drive; be aware of your physical and legal limits and the potential dangers of intoxicated driving. To avoid other drivers who may have celebrated too much, stay off the roads at high-risk times, such as after nightfall on New Year's Eve.

~~Deputy Leo Lowe

# Crime Prevention Through Social Development



Access control is a term used in crime prevention, particularly in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED, that refers to reducing the opportunity for crime to occur by prohibiting or managing access to a given area. In CPTED, access is commonly limited or prohibited through the use of fences, gates, walls, doors and other barriers. Access is managed using environmental cues such as streets, sidewalks, pathways, and signs. Access is controlled in an effort to protect something, commonly referred to in crime prevention as the target. An example of access control could be a sidewalk in a neighborhood that directs people where to walk to protect them from vehicles. The sidewalk may end at a gate restricting access to another neighborhood or someone's yard.

But how do people learn to react to such methods of controlling access? How did you learn what a fence or a gate was for? How did you learn to walk on a sidewalk and to follow signs? The answer lies in the nature/nurture hypothesis: people learn from both their instincts and their environment. Your instincts tell you that a wall and a door are blocking you from your destination. Through trial and error you can figure out that a door can open to let you in, but what if it is locked? How do you learn the concept of a lock? Someone in your environment gives you a tool and often teaches you how to unlock the door and gain access. What about sidewalks and signs? Trial and error? Maybe, but you probably learned this one by watching others, known as the Social Learning Theory. The Social Learning Theory explains the way in which humans learn new behaviors, both desirable and undesirable. Theorists involved in developing this theory identify four main components: 1) attention – the ability of the learner to be interested in what is being learned, 2) retention – the ability of the learner to absorb what has been learned, 3) reproduction – the ability of the learner to perform the learned behavior, and 4) motivation – the ability of the learner to receive reinforcement, whether from other people, from self satisfaction, or both (Social Learning Theory (A. Bandura)). Being in close contact with those performing new behaviors, viewing those performing new behaviors as role models, achieving an understanding those behaviors, imitating the behaviors of the role models, and receiving praise or rewards likely leads to the behavior becoming part of the learner's skill set.

When understanding why someone engages in crime, it is important to consider both of the concepts discussed above: opportunities for crime and how people learn from their instincts and their environment. These two concepts come from two approaches to crime prevention, 1) situational crime prevention and 2) developmental crime prevention. Situational crime prevention seeks to reduce crime in three ways: 1) by making it more difficult to complete the crime (such as locking a door), 2) by increasing the perceived risk of being caught (such as increasing the likelihood someone will be seen trying to burglarize a building), and 3) by reducing the reward of successfully completing the crime (such as having valuable items engraved with a serial number or your driver's license number) (Wortley, 1998). Developmental crime prevention is focused on the behaviors or ability to commit crime, and attitudes or desire that makes crime acceptable, that are developed through experiences that can influence the likelihood of criminal behavior (Tremblay and Craig, 1995). These two approaches to crime prevention go 'hand-in-hand' because without knowing what provides or denies opportunity through the perception of difficulty, risk, or reward, we cannot effectively prevent the crime. This aspect of crime prevention requires the understanding of the development of criminal behavior, or what contributes to the desire and ability to commit the offense. All three of these components: opportunity, desire, and ability, make up what traditional crime prevention curriculums consider the 'crime triangle'.

Referring back to this article's original discussion of access control as a crime prevention technique, crime can be prevented by affecting the potential offender's access to the target. This can be accomplished by affecting the three elements of the crime triangle, the person's desire to commit the crime, their ability to commit the crime, and the opportunity for the crime to be committed successfully. These three elements represent primary crime prevention, secondary crime prevention, and tertiary crime prevention respectively.

Primary crime prevention includes "conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for or precipitate criminal acts" (Lab, 2010, p. 27). For example, providing a sidewalk and legitimately connecting people to destinations may reduce the *desire* to trespass. Secondary crime prevention "engages in early identification of potential offenders and seeks to intervene" (Lab, 2010, p. 29). For example, identifying a lack of connection between neighborhoods and services and anticipating the *ability* for people to trespass to get where they desire to be. Tertiary crime prevention "deals with actual offenders and involves intervention...in such a fashion that they will not commit further offenses" (Lab, 2010, p. 29). For example, posting a "no trespassing" sign after people have been trespassing to reduce the perceived *opportunity* of trespassing without anyone noticing.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Unit has effectively embraced these concepts and is implementing them in our highest crime zone, known as Mike Zone in unincorporated Southwest Gainesville, an area just over one square mile. With the help of the grassroots resident, advocate, and agency provider organization, the Southwest Advocacy Group, they are engaging in primary, secondary, and tertiary crime prevention. They are affecting the *desire* of people in the community by partnering with them to address their needs and build trust. By recognizing those who are at risk, such as juveniles, and working to create programs that will give them options for being successful that do not involve crime, they are affecting their *ability*. And by recognizing the crime that currently exists and effectively addressing it through Community Oriented Policing Services known as the COPS Unit, they are reducing the *opportunity* for crime to be committed successfully.

~~ COPS Analyst Katie Fields

# Gang Awareness



- What is a Gang?** There is not a nationally accepted definition, but most agree on the following elements:
- A gang usually consists of a group of three or more people.
  - Gang members share a common identifying sign, symbol, or name.
  - Gang members individually or collectively engage in an ongoing pattern of criminal or delinquent activity.
  - They are often between 12 and 24 years of age.

**Do we have a gang problem? Are our children at risk of joining a gang?**

**Here are a few indicators of possible gang involvement:**

- ★ Purchasing or a desire to buy or wear clothing of all one color or style
- ★ Changing appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings, or tattoos
- ★ Using hand signs
- ★ Gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls, and buildings
- ★ Developing a bad attitude towards family, school, and authorities
- ★ Staying out later than usual
- ★ Carrying weapons
- ★ Withdrawing from family activities
- ★ Changing friends; spending time with undesirable people
- ★ Having more money or possessions



**Why do kids join gangs?** The following is a list of reasons why kids join gangs:

- ★ **Acceptance** - Many kids feel that they are not getting the attention they feel they deserve at home. They start looking for this attention and love in other places and often find what they are looking for in a gang. The gang essentially becomes their family.
- ★ **Excitement** - This group of kids love the “high” of committing crimes and getting away with it.
- ★ **To Make Money** - Kids join gangs to make a profit through illegal activities. Selling narcotics, robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, illegal immigrant smuggling and other crimes are common in many gangs. **Peer Pressure** - If your kids are hanging around gangs and gang members you can almost guarantee that they are being pressured to join the gang. **It is important to know who your children are associating with.**
- ★ **Protection** - In low income neighborhoods and neighborhoods with high gang activity, kids often have to join a gang just to survive. It is often easier to join the gang than to be victimized on a daily basis.
- ★ **To Socialize** - The best parties in town are gang parties. Easy access to liquor, narcotics, and girls are attractive to potential gang recruits.

**What Parents Can Do?**

- ★ Be a positive role model.
- ★ Do everything possible to involve your children in supervised, positive group activities.
- ★ Praise your children for doing well and encourage them to do their very best.
- ★ Get to know your children's friends and their parents.
- ★ Set limits for your children, and enforce them.
- ★ Do not allow your children to dress in gang-style clothing, to practice gang hand signs, or to write gang graffiti on any surface, including their bodies.
- ★ Explain to your children that only a very small percentage of youth join gangs.
- ★ Help your children to understand the natural consequences of being involved in a gang.
- ★ **The more connected a child is with family, school, community, and positive activities, the less likely he or she will be attracted to gangs.** If you want to learn more or suspect your child is being effected by gang activity please Contact Detective Richard LaLonde at: (352)384-3397.



## Current Events



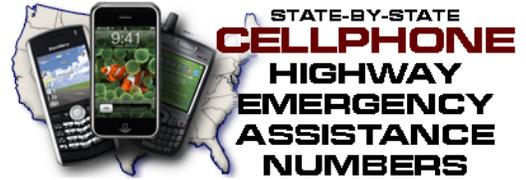
**Alachua County Sheriff** Alachua County's Most Wanted. This episode aired on WCJB TV 20 on Aug 29, 2010. If you recognize any of these wanted subjects, please call the Crime Line at: 352-372-7867 or file your tips online at [www.alachuasheriff.org](http://www.alachuasheriff.org).



**Alachua County Sheriff** The Sheriff's Office would love for you to take advantage of three of our awesome programs that are offered Free of charge to residents of our county. The Teen Driver Challenge is a course designed to expand the driving skills of our newest drivers. The RAD, or Rape Aggression Defense, course teaches women the skills to defend themselves if faced by an attacker. The Explorer Post is a program that teaches teens the skills and values that are necessary to become a Law Enforcement Officers. Please click on the pictures to learn more.



# Seasonal Safety



The Holiday Season is upon us once again. Turkeys and Hams will be roasting. Trees and candles will be lit. Family visits will put many of us on the roads; and lets not forget the presents! The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit would like to provide you with a few safety tips on how to keep your holiday a safe and happy one.

## Holiday Shopping Tips

- 1) Do not leave purchased items visible in the car-leave them in the trunk.
- 2) While shopping, the evening hours may be less crowded; however there are also additional potential risks involved. Park in areas of parking lots that have adequate lighting. Consider shopping with someone rather than going alone.
- 3) Make sure purses and wallets are secure on your person and you are aware of their location at all times.
- 4) Keep the amount of available cash you have at a minimum or separate it into different pockets or locations on or about your person, this way all of it is not lost if your purse or wallet is misplaced or stolen.
- 5) Credit cards offer convenience and security; however keep track of all cards and keep receipts to compare to your monthly statement.
- 6) Remain aware of your surroundings at all times and move to and from your vehicle with confidence and "purpose". Have keys ready **before** getting to your car so you do not have to search for them while standing near it.
- 7) Report suspicious people or activity to law enforcement **immediately!**
- 8) **Listen to your instincts!** *If you have a bad feeling, ask for an escort from store security or Law Enforcement.*
- 9) Remember that the holidays can be stressful on everyone. If you find yourself getting stressed, take a moment and breathe. Road Rage is a real danger during the holiday season.

## Home Safety Tips While Away

- 1) Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers should be inscribed with an identifying number unique to its owner (do not use your entire social security number) FL and your Drivers License number works perfectly.
- 2) Create an up-to-date home inventory including make, model, serial numbers, other detailed descriptions, and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). This inventory should be kept in a safe or safety deposit box.
- 3) Use timers to turn the lights and TV on and off while you are away so that it appears someone is home.
- 4) The motion detector or other alarm system (if you have one) should be activated when you leave home.
- 5) Make arrangements for the mail and newspaper to be picked up by a trusted neighbor or friend if you will be away from home for a period of time. Do not stop delivery as that lets strangers know you are out of town.
- 6) Ask a trusted neighbor to tend the yard, take out and return the trash cans, and watch your home when you are away or have a trusted friend or relative house sit in your absence.
- 7) Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave, even if you have an alarm system.
- 8) Unplug your garage door and pin the track so that it can't be opened while you are away.
- 9) Contact the Sheriff's Office (352-955-1818) to request extra patrols of your residence while you are out of town.

Thank you for reading our publication. Please submit any feed back to [crimepreventiontips@alachuasheriff.org](mailto: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**.