



# TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Building a Better Future through Excellence in Policing"*



October 2020

## Crime Watch Newsletter

**Tarpon Springs Officer of the Year, Corporal Mark Sapino.**

**Cpl. Sapino was nominated by his supervisor for his dedication and selflessness. Mark's peers and subordinates look up to him for advise and counsel. He is a dedicated and motivated trainer and leader for the SWAT team. Recently, Cpl. Sapino was able to establish a rapport with an armed suicidal subject that ended with subject discarding gun and surrendering to officers without incident. Congrats, Cpl. Mark Sapino for a protecting the citizens of the City of Tarpon Springs!**

CONGRATULATIONS



# Fire Safety

## BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



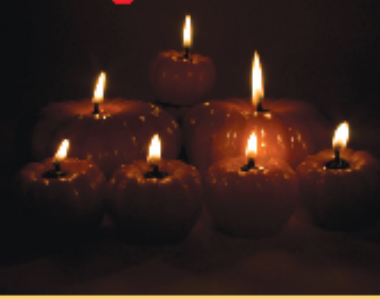
Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.

## HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- » **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- » **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- » Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- » **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- » **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- » **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- » **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

### Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in **800** reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

**Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue**





# Stay Alert!!!!

## PROPERTY CRIME YOU CAN HELP PREVENT IT



### LOCK IT

Ensure your car doors and all doors to your residence are kept locked.



### REMOVE IT

Removing valuables from your car is better than hiding them. This includes garage door openers and spare keys.



### LIGHT IT

Leave exterior residence lights on at night or utilize motion detecting lights.



### CLOSE IT

Keep your garage door closed and double-check it is closed at night.



### HIDE IT

Keep valuables in your garage, car and home out of sight.



### REPORT IT

Report all criminal and suspicious activity immediately.

Police-727-937-6151

**TARPON SPRINGS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



NON-EMERGENCY  
(727) 938-2849  
[WWW.TSPD.US](http://WWW.TSPD.US)





Join us for a fun drive-thru event!  
Dress up in costume & go to all of the  
locations listed to collect treats from  
the various trunks on display.



TARPON SPRINGS  
RECREATION  
TSRDONLINE.COM 727-942-5628

Community Center 400 S Walton Ave.  
Splash Park 508 Live Oak St.  
Craig Park 5 Beekman Ln.



# TRAFFIC SAFETY



## NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

2020 National School Bus Safety Week: October 19-23

**"Red Lights Mean STOP!"**

**316.172 Traffic to stop for school bus.—316.172**

(1)(a) Any person using, operating, or driving a vehicle on or over the roads or highways of this state shall, upon approaching any school bus which displays a stop signal, bring such vehicle to a full stop while the bus is stopped, and the vehicle shall not pass the school bus until the signal has been withdrawn. A person who violates this section commits a moving violation.

Officer M Roque and Officer J Hollingsworth

Tarpon Springs Police (Traffic Safety Unit)

727-939-4495

Email: [alltspdtraffic@tspd.us](mailto:alltspdtraffic@tspd.us)

## Protect Yourself from Card Skimmers

What steps can a careful consumer take to protect against these devices? While it may not be possible to completely avoid skimmers, here are a few tips that will greatly reduce your risk of fraud at the pump:

**Take a close look at the pump:** Avoid using pumps that are open or unlocked, have had the tamper-evident security tape cut or removed, or otherwise appear unusual. If anything seems cracked, loose, or tampered with, use a different pump. Some newer pumps may also have encrypted credit card readers — look for an illuminated green lock symbol near the credit card reader.

**Pay with a credit card:** If a credit card number is skimmed, you're protected by the card issuer's zero-liability policy — but a stolen debit card number could be far more damaging. If you must use a debit card, choose to use it as credit, instead of selecting debit and entering your PIN. Use a credit card chip reader if it is available.

**Pay inside instead of at the pump:** It takes just seconds for criminals to place a skimmer in a gas pump — but it's far less likely that a skimmer has been placed on the payment terminal in front of the clerk inside the gas station or convenience store. Take the few extra minutes to pay inside with cash or a credit card to protect yourself from fraud.

**Choose gas pumps closest to the physical building:** Don't use gas pumps out of the attendant's line of sight, such as those around a corner or behind a building. Thieves placing skimmers are less likely to put them in pumps where the store attendant may catch them in the act.

**Check your card statements and sign up for fraud alerts:** Nearly every credit card issuer offers fraud alerts, and many will email or text you when your card is used at a gas station. Check your credit card and debit card transactions regularly to make sure no fraudulent activity has occurred.

Consumers who suspect their credit card number has been compromised should report it immediately to authorities and their credit card company.





## Tarpon Springs Police Department

Hello Tarpon Springs Community! Our police department is excited to be joining the Neighbors by Ring App. This App will provide Tarpon Springs Police Department another avenue to keep our community informed about crime and safety events so you can stay informed. The Neighbors by Ring App also allows you, the user, to “see something, share something” directly with Tarpon Springs Police Department.

You do not need Ring devices to participate; anyone with a camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App!

We are encouraging everyone to spread the word about the Neighbors App. To download you can text “staysafe” to 555888, or find the App in your device’s App store by searching “Neighbors by Ring”.

**As a reminder, Tarpon Springs Police do not accept crime reports via any social media platform, including the Neighbors App. Our social media platforms are NOT monitored 24 hours a day.**

If you are the victim of a crime, call 911 in an emergency, or 727-937-6151 in non-emergency.

**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING,  
SAY  
SOMETHING.**

**REPORT  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
TO THE POLICE**

3M Authorized © 2012 SmartSign.com • Part # 2PIE

**Tarpon Springs Police Department**

**444 South Huey Avenue**

**Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**

**Emergency #911**

**Administration # 727-938-2849**

**Non-Emergency Dispatch # 727-937-6151**

**Like us on FACEBOOK**

