



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Whether you are running an errand, headed to the beach, or letting the kids play outside, these are the facts and safety tips you need to know to keep you and your family safe during the summer!

Did you know?

- Texas law does not specify an age that you can safely leave your child at home alone.
- Leaving your child unattended in a car is a crime punishable under Texas law.
- It only takes 20 minutes for the inside of a car to reach 104° when it's 75° outside and 10 minutes when it's 85°2.
- The sun is the strongest between 10 AM and 2 PM.
- 37 is the average number of U.S. child vehicular heat stroke deaths in a year; 87% were 3 years old and younger.
- It is unlawful to leave your pet in unsafe condition and/or causes injury to the pet, including a hot car.
- It is illegal for a parent to allow a child under 14 years to ride a bike without a helmet.
- Helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by 85% in a crash.
- Drowning can occur in just a few inches of water.



TRAVEL SAFETY

On the Road - Be prepared:

- Always properly secure yourself and children in seatbelts and when appropriate, car seats.
- Rowdy children can be a distraction while driving - keep them occupied with games and shows.
- Driving for long periods of time can make you drowsy – take plenty of breaks, open a window or switch drivers.

Keeping your home safe while you are away - Most neighborhood crimes that occur are crimes of opportunity.

Prevention is key; consider the following to deter victimization:

- Entrust a neighbor or a friend who lives close by with an extra key to your home in case of emergencies. It is not recommended to hide a key around your home. Work together with your neighbors by looking out for suspicious and/or unusual behavior.
- Make a habit of using your alarm and locking windows and door, including interior doors to an attached garage.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from windows; it will add to your curb appeal and won't allow someone to hide.
- Use timers on lamps in your home, it will appear as someone is home and will provide lighting if you arrive home after dark.
- Postpone your social media posts about your travels to when you return. Updating in real-time alerts others of an empty house.
- Have packages delivered to an alternate address such as a work address if you are not going to be home during a delivery.
- Do not enter your home if doors or windows are open that you do not recall leaving open. Call the police from a safe distance.

Lodging - Whether you are camping or staying at a hotel, keep safety in mind:

- Look for potential dangers around the space and childproof new environments.
- Ask the front desk if they have rooms equipped for children.
- Keep doors locks at all times.
- Keep valuables locked away.



WATER SAFETY

Always supervise children when in or around water.

- If you step away, designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Drowning can occur in just a few inches of water so even supervise bath time.
- Teach your child to swim.
- Become CPR certified especially if you own a pool.
- When boating, all ages should wear approved life jackets.
- Like drinking and driving, alcohol and swimming don't mix.



HEAT SAFETY

- The sun is the strongest from 10am to 2pm so plan accordingly.
- Use sunscreen with a minimum SPF 15.
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours or after being in the water.
- Wear a hat to protect your face and neck.
- Stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Drink plenty of water when in the sun (16 ounces/hr minimum).
- If exercising in the sun, make sure to drink water every 20 minutes.
- Gradually work up to longer periods of sun exposure.

HOME ALONE

Texas law does not specify an age that you can safely leave your child at home alone. According to DFPS, you are ultimately accountable for your child's care and inadequate supervision can be considered neglectful supervision.

Below are some things to consider before leaving your child home alone:

- How old, emotionally mature, and capable is your child?
- Is the home environment a safe one?
- Does your child have basic first-aid knowledge?
- Are there hazards or risks in the neighborhood?
- What is your child's ability to respond to illness, fire, weather, or other types of emergencies?
- How does your child generally handle unexpected situations?
- Does your child have a mental, physical, or mental disability?
- Does your child know where you are and have the knowledge and means to contact you?
- Does your child have other responsible adults he/she can contact if you are not available?
- How long will your child be left alone?

When leaving children home alone, consider the following:

- Have an emergency plan in place and practice it.
- Practice first aid.
- Discuss how they will feed themselves. Are they allowed to use appliances?
- Set rules for going outside, using the computer, having friends over, screen time, etc.
- Create a schedule for your child so he/she knows what to expect, including times to check in.
- Utilize parental controls on computers and televisions.
- Secure items that pose potential dangers such as firearms, alcohol, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, car keys, lighters, etc.
- Check that all windows and doors are safely secured.
- Is there a neighbor you trust to check in on your child? If so, plan a check-in schedule with that neighbor.
- Write down the home address as well as emergency numbers such as 911 and poison control.



HIRING A SITTER

If you choose to hire someone to watch your child, consider the following:

- There is no legal babysitting age in Texas.
- The Red Cross recommends a minimum babysitting age of 11 to 15 years old and offers babysitting classes for kids starting at age 11.
- Consider their experience caring for children your child's age and call their listed references!
- Check databases for criminal history including the National Sex Offender registry.
- Listen to your child if he/she discloses disapproval of the sitter or feels uncomfortable with the sitter.
- Introduce your sitter to your kids and your home prior to the first job.
- Discuss discipline and expectations with the babysitter.
- Leave a list of emergency contacts in the event that you are unreachable.
- Review people who may or may not be allowed in your home.



SUMMER CAMPS

Questions to consider when choosing a summer camp:

- Are employees checked for criminal history including the National Sex Offender registry?
- What type of training is required for staff? Is there any pertaining to bullying and abuse prevention?
- What is the camp's discipline policy for staff misconduct as well as campers?
- How will your child be supervised?
- Search the camp online for reviews.
- Is the camp licensed by the state and accredited by the ACA (American Camp Association)?
- Talk to your kids about personal safety, boundaries, acceptable & unacceptable behaviors. Discuss how to respond to possible scenarios they may encounter.

How to Report a Tip



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our **Mobile App**

Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://www.crime-stoppers.org)

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.