TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Bringing hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.

SUMMER TRAVELING:

- Create a family safety word especially when traveling
- Use your cell phone to take a picture of your child(ren) each day to show what each child is wearing *(dress small children in BRIGHTLY colored clothing so they are easy to spot in crowds/water)*
- Create the following documents to leave with contacts at home and near your destination:
  - **Personal Data Form** to take with you and to leave with a family member/friend at home *(should include medical info and detailed personal information)*
  - **Family Travel Itinerary** to complete for each family member to take with you and to leave with a family member/friend at home *(includes medical info and detailed personal information)*

HOME ALONE TIPS

PARENTS MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD(REN) KNOW(S):

- His or her full name, address, and telephone number.
- Your full name, the exact name of the place where you work, your work phone number, and any cell phone numbers you may have.
- How to make a telephone call to request help in an emergency using **9-1-1** or the appropriate number(s) in your area.
- How to carry his or her key so it is hidden and secure. Your name and address should **not** be on the key, and it may be wise to leave an extra key with a trusted friend or neighbor. Visit nsopw.gov to be sure your neighbor is NOT on the registered sex offender list.
- Not to walk or play alone on the way home and never take shortcuts home.
- What to do if he or she is being followed. If that happens, your child should turn around, run in the opposite direction, and go to a designated place to get help and tell a trusted adult what happened.
- To always check out the home before entering looking for such things as open, ajar, or broken doors and windows or anything that doesn't look right. Go to a designated safe place to call for help if something doesn't seem right.
- To always lock the door after entering and make sure the house is secure.
- To immediately check in with you upon returning home to let you know he or she has arrived safely.
- Not to open the door for or talk to anyone who comes to the home unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, he or she feels comfortable being alone with that person, **and** the visit has been pre-approved by you.

- To stay alert for true emergencies such as a fire or gas-main leak that would require the need to leave the home. Have an evacuation plan in place, as well as a safe place for your child to go in case of an emergency.
- To check with you or another trusted adult if he or she is in doubt about anything.

AS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE YOU HAVE…

- A favorites list on your phone and your child's phone including numbers for you, law enforcement, the fire department, and ambulance service, your doctor, a poison-control center, and a trusted adult who is available in case of an emergency.
- A daily schedule of chores and activities for your child to follow.
- Written instructions about which, if any, appliances may be used; what to do in case of fire; and how to get out of the house if there is a fire.
- A plan if you are detained and what to do if your child's plans change.
- Instructions about watching television, using a computer, online game systems or other digital devices, talking on the phone, and inviting friends over when you aren't home.
- Make time to discuss the day's events with your child. Ensure they know it is okay to discuss anything with you, especially something that may have made him or her feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.

If you believe your child is missing, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Nothing is worse than losing a child. Stay calm but allow others to help.

REMEMBER: You Are Not Alone.

Contact us for resources and information.

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713.599.0235
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centerforthemissing.org