



PRESS RELEASE

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TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT



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For Immediate Release

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“Traveling Tips: Leaving Behind a Safe Home”

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Summer is here and many families will be traveling out of town during the next few weeks. If your summer plans include travel, here are a few suggested precautions you can take to ensure the safety of your home and possessions while you are out of town:

- Lock your doors and windows.
- Temporarily stop your newspaper and mail delivery while you are gone.
- Do not leave your garbage can out by the road. Have a friend or neighbor place it by the curb the night before your scheduled collection day and have them move it back to the side or back of the house after your collection route runs.
- Use timers with staggered on/off times for indoor lighting, and consider installing outdoor lighting with motion sensors so would-be burglar thinks the home is occupied.
- Leave a radio or TV on inside your home.
- Remove valuables such as silver and jewelry from your home and leave them in your safe deposit box at the bank. Also consider taking small, expensive electronic items with you.
- Do not leave descriptive answering machine or voicemail messages that alert the caller you are out of town.
- If possible, leave a car out in the driveway.

- Keep your landscaping up-to-date, including grass, shrubbery, leaves, and tree limbs. An unkempt yard is a sure sign that homeowners are out of town.
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to check the house periodically to make sure everything is safe and consider leaving a key with them in case of an emergency.
- Complete a “Vacation Watch Request” with the Tomball Police Department and, as available, a member of the Tomball Police Department will patrol your residence.

To complete a “Vacation watch Request”, simply log on to www.tomballpd.com, and click on the Vacation Patrol icon. From there, complete the Vacation Watch form and submit it tom Tomball Police Department. You will receive an e-mail to advise that your request was received. If internet access is unavailable, contact the Tomball Police Department and ask that your home is placed on the “Vacation Watch” list for extra patrol. To make this request, please call (281) 351-5451.

Have fun and don't let worrying about your home ruin your vacation.