



Crime prevention and safety tips

September 2011

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

Importance of Internet Privacy

The evolution of the World Wide Web has enabled us to improve and increase communication, remove physical barriers, and expand our education. The impact on society has been monumental. It touches just about every part of our lives from how we work, the news we receive, and how we keep in touch with friends and family.

However, with this luxury comes public access to your most prized possession; your privacy. With one click you could be exposing your personal information to potential threats.

OnGuard Online provides seven tips to help protect your information for safer computing:

1. Protect your personal information. It's valuable. To minimize your risk of identity theft, don't share your personal information unless you know how it will be used and protected. Don't reply to, or click on links in any email asking for your personal information.
2. Know who you're dealing with. When shopping online, look for a seller's physical address and a working telephone number.
3. Use security software that updates automatically. Look for anti-virus software that removes or quarantines viruses, and for anti-spyware software that can undo changes spyware makes to your system. Make sure your firewall is on and set up properly. Before downloading free software, read the fine print, some downloads come with spyware.
4. Keep your operating system and Web

browser up-to-date, and learn about their security features. Select security settings high enough to reduce your risk of being hacked. Regularly update your system with the latest patches.

5. Keep your passwords safe, secure and strong. Keep them in a secure place, and don't share them on the Internet, over email, or on the phone.
6. Back up important files. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc, and store it in a safe place.
7. Learn what to do in an emergency. Learn who to contact if something goes wrong online.

Resources

- **OnGuardOnline** - provides practical tips from the federal government and the technology industry to help you be on guard against internet fraud, secure your computer, and protect your personal information.
www.onguardonline.gov
- **Kids Privacy**
www.onguardonline.gov/topics/kids-privacy.aspx
- **Online Shopping**
www.onguardonline.gov/topics/online-shopping.aspx

The information expressed are those of OnGuardOnline and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position or opinions of Hillsborough County.

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, contact the Criminal Justice Liaison at (813) 276-2548.