

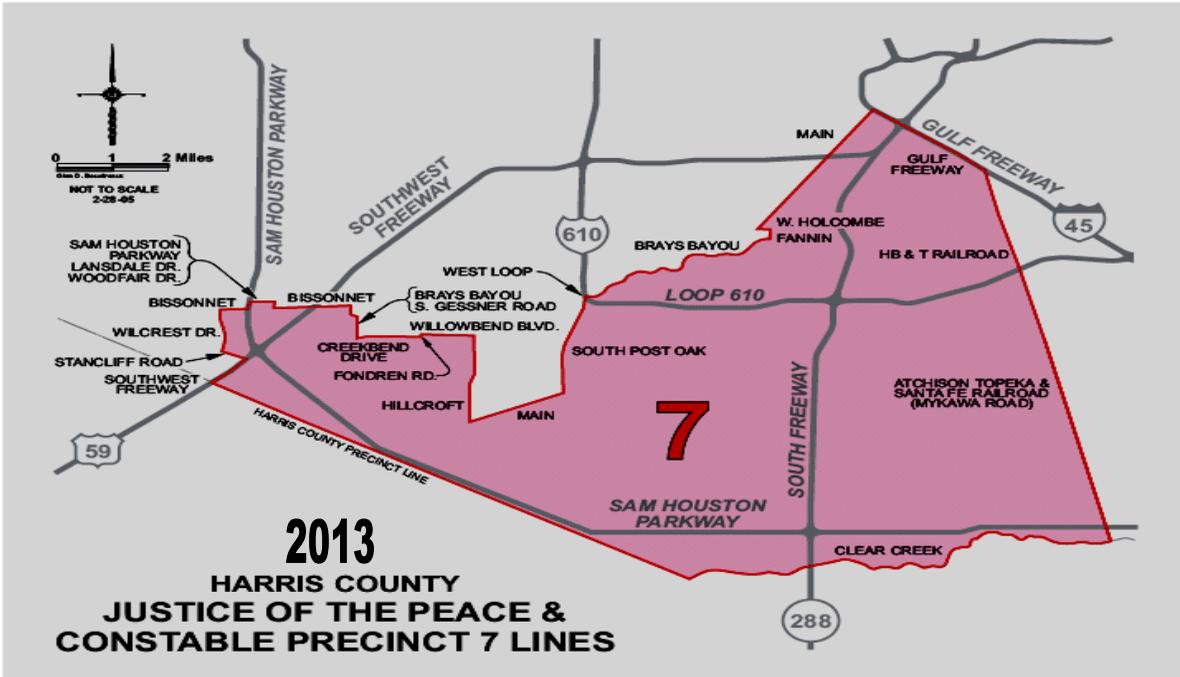


Constable *May Walker*
Harris County Precinct 7

CONSTABLE MAY WALKER'S PRECINCT 7 NEWSLETTER

Walking Tall With Walker, "Law Enforcement With Integrity"

Creating Safer Communities Through Awareness, Prevention, and Preparedness



Harris County Precinct 7 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and age.

CONSTABLE *May Walker*

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**Be Aware!
Be Alert!
Be Careful!**



www.hctx.net/conpct7

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The shooting that took place in Newtown, Connecticut at Sandy Hook Elementary School was a defining moment in US history. Although, debates over firearms ruled headlines months prior, arguments made by gun control supporters were strengthened due to this tragic event that claimed the lives of 20 innocent children and six (6) members of the school's faculty and staff who died trying to save them.

Let's face it, times have changed and the weapons that are being used are certainly quite different from the ones our forefathers had in mind for the purpose of hunting and personal protection when they drafted the Constitution. The fact that someone with a history of mental illness or criminal background is able to gain access to a high powered assault weapon or any gun for that matter, with no questions

FROM THE DESK OF THE CONSTABLE

asked, is extremely disconcerting. When addressing an issue like gun control, the advances that have taken place in our society since 1787 (the year the Constitution was written), must be taken into consideration.

Even more troubling is that it took an incident like Sandy Hook to get lawmakers to understand the urgent need for gun control and the ban on assault weapons in the United States. Based on the most recent findings by the FBI, in 2011, gun violence claimed the lives of 8,583 people in US; of that number 565 were young people under the age of 18, and 119 were children 12-years old or younger. However, the figures above are based on homicides and do not include the individuals who died in accidental shootings or who used guns to commit suicide.

Finally, the easy access that criminals have to firearms has placed law enforcement officers at a deadly disadvantage. The effectiveness of a police officer's standard issued service revolver becomes obsolete against a criminal armed with a high powered assault weapon and body armor piercing ammunition.

For these reasons, stricter gun laws must be imposed, universal background checks required and a ban on assault weapons enforced. Authorized individuals ought to maintain their rights to bear arms; however, criminals and the mentally incompetent should not.

Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Careful!

Precinct 7 - Bigger Better Job Fair

Ministers Supporting Pct. 7 and Constable May Walker hosted their 8th Annual Bigger Better Job Fair, May 7, 2013, at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center. The job fair was free and open to the public.

Hundreds of job seekers lined up to meet with over forty employers including: HPD, Harris County Human Resources & Risk Mgt., HFD, Randall's Food Markets, Aflac, JS101 (Job Search 101), First Convenience Bank, and City of Houston.

The job fair proved to be fruitful for both hiring agents and job seekers. One agency did on the spot interviews which resulted in job placement for over 50 event attendees.



Pct. 7 Enforcement Team Snuffing Out Tobacco Sales to Minors



The Harris County Precinct 7 **Tobacco Enforcement Team** is working hard to ensure that area convenience stores, grocery stores, and drug stores are not selling tobacco products to youth under the age of 18.

The team headed by Precinct 7 **Lieutenant Anil Sharma** is composed of Precinct 7 deputies, and several high school students working undercover as buyers. By conducting regular and random checks of stores throughout the Precinct 7 jurisdiction, numerous store clerks have been cited for selling tobacco products to teens. The employee is criminally responsible for the offense and is subject to prosecution.

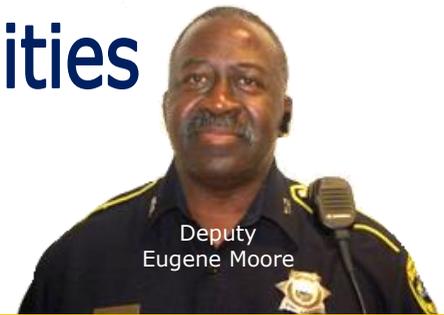
The offense a store clerk faces for selling tobacco to a minor is a Class C misdemeanor. Clerks must ask for proof of age of customers younger than 27 years of age before they sell tobacco products. Minors who violate the tobacco law can be fined up to \$250 and required to attend a tobacco awareness program or participate in a tobacco-related community service. Parents of a minor convicted of a violation may be required to attend the tobacco awareness program with their child.

According to the Center of Disease Control, more than 3,000 young people become regular smokers every day, which is more than one million new smokers a year. And many of them continue to smoke regularly as adults, increasing their risk of dying prematurely from smoking-related diseases, such as lung cancer, heart disease and stroke.



Lieutenant Anil Sharma

Duties and Responsibilities of Harris County Precinct 7



Deputy Eugene Moore

Writ of Attachment

Harris County Constable Precinct 7 is a law enforcement agency that has the responsibility of, but is not limited to, patrolling and responding to emergency and non-emergency calls within the geographical boundaries in its contracted areas. Precinct 7's ultimate responsibility is serving civil papers that are issued through the offices of the Justices of Peace (Positions One and Two) and county, district, and federal courts.

constable or sheriff to apprehend a particular person who has been guilty of a contempt of court and bring the offender before the court.

In family law cases in Texas, a writ of attachment is a court order to a sheriff or constable in the state of Texas to physically remove a child from one person and deliver the child to another. They are used when one person is refusing to comply with a court order to return the child to another party, refusing visitation rights, or when the party withholding the child is endangering the child. The person seeking the writ applies to the court where the original order was made and must pay any applicable filing fees.

A Writ of Attachment is one of the many types of papers served by law enforcement officials of Harris County Constable Precinct 7. In criminal cases in Texas, A writ of attachment requires a

Precinct 7 Student Internship Program

Area college students experience what it is like to serve the public within a professional environment during the 2013 Spring Precinct 7 Student Internship Program. The program is an unpaid learning opportunity for students registered in a college credit-generating course at the time of their internship. Precinct 7 is able to accommodate interns from a wide variety of academic programs. However, most commonly, we accommodate students who have an interest in the criminal justice field.



Precinct 7 Interns, **Aaric Hopkins, Shonte Newman, Tomesha Bailey** and **Tierra McGowan** (all Texas Southern University Administration of Justice, majors) distributing gun safety locks and information to firearm owners with young children and teens living at home.

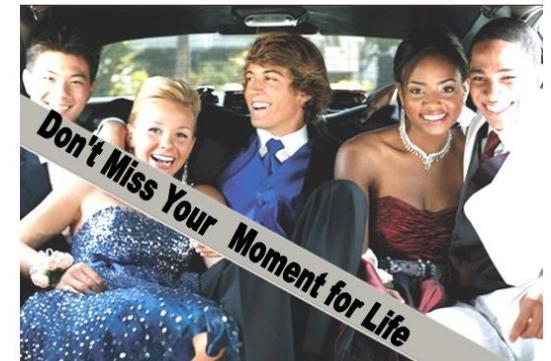
Seat Belts and Teen Drivers

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in every state. From 2003 – 2008, **2,600** 16 to 20 year olds were killed in **Texas**. Of those, **52%** were not buckled.

Teens need to recognize that wearing a seat belt is the **absolute best way** to protect themselves and their passengers from severe injury or death in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

During a crash, being buckled up helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle, whereas being completely thrown out of a vehicle is almost always deadly.

In 2009, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved more than 13,000 lives nationwide. In **Texas** alone, seat belts saved **1,407** lives. **Texas'** goal is simple: to prevent tragic and untimely deaths of teens in our state by convincing both drivers and passengers to buckle up.



Buckle Up! **Seat Belts Save Lives!**



Buckle Up! Precinct 7

Motor Vehicle Safety

Behind the Wheel



Unfortunately, more and more Precinct 7 residents are finding themselves victims of vehicle-related crimes. For this reason, it is important to avoid distractions whenever you get behind the wheel of a car. With more drivers paying attention to their surroundings, using common sense, and practicing safe vehicle habits; the chance of crime prevention can be strengthened and accidents involving vehicles can be greatly reduced. Here are some things you can do to be safer while driving:

- Make sure your vehicle is safe and in working order.
- If your car breaks down and cannot be driven, stay inside the vehicle with the doors locked and use your cell phone to call for help.
- Save the talking and texting for when you are not behind the wheel of a vehicle.
- Your focus should be on the road and the other drivers, cyclist, and pedestrians around you.
- Never operate a vehicle after consuming alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Do not speed or drive aggressively.
- Drive with all doors locked and windows rolled up.
- Use child safety seats for kids.
- Never leave a child in a car unattended.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Always wear your seat belt and make sure that everyone in the vehicle with you is buckled up. **It is the law!**



Recently promoted,
Sergeant
Juan Leal

Parked Vehicles

Recently, on a street located in one of the Harris County Precinct 7 Contract areas, eight (8) different homeowners woke up to find that their vehicles had been burglarized and one car stolen. However, there were no reports of broken glass, forced entry, or anything suspicious or out of the ordinary.

After further investigation, deputies found that all of the cars that had been broken into, during the wee hours of night, were left unlocked by the owners. Thieves made off with purses, wallets, laptops, and other valuables that had been carelessly left in the cars by the owners. As for the stolen vehicle, the robbers did not have a hard time getting the car started since the vehicle's owner was kind enough to leave the keys in the ignition for them.

Here are some tips to help ensure that your vehicle is not an easy target for criminals or robbers:

- Park in well-lighted areas and lock your doors, no matter how long you are away.
- While at home, park cars in the garage.
- Put valuables out of sight or in the trunk.
- Do not store an extra key under the car/fender/etc.
- Never leave your car running while unattended.
- When parked, do not leave windows cracked or opened.



Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Deputy Program



The **Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Deputy Program** offers assistance to victims of **domestic abuse**, also referred to as **intimate partner violence**, by responding to their emotional and physical needs and by providing them with safety and security. In addition, the **Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Deputy** is dedicated to helping victims find stability in their lives after victimization, and by assisting them in understanding and maneuvering the criminal justice system.

- Conducting Crisis Counseling and related activities.
- Performing anti-domestic violence education seminars at schools and community events.
- Identifying, documenting and monitoring domestic violence victims to determine if re-victimization has occurred and determining if additional services are needed to help stabilize the life of the victims/survivors.

The **Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence Deputy Program** will help victims reclaim their lives by:

- Providing victims assistance by filing **temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and other protective orders.**
- Accompanying victims/survivors to court when needed.
- Aiding battered victims and their children in developing a safety plan.
- Assisting and referring victims/survivors to the Precinct 7 Compensation Program for compensation application and processing. Providing medical advocacy for victims as needed.
- Assisting victims/survivors in obtaining emergency services (e.g. food, shelter, clothing, etc.)
- Coordinating with other area law enforcement agencies and Social Services agencies to make and receive referrals on the victims behalf.



Deputy
Monica Bilbo

Help is just a phone call away!

If you are being abused physically, sexually, or emotionally by a intimate partner or family member and are ready to break free from the cycle of violence call:

Harris County Precinct 7 Domestic Violence **Deputy, Monica Bilbo** at (713)643-6118 ext. 115.

If you see or hear violence in progress call:
Precinct 7 24-hour Dispatch at (713)643-6602

Caring For Our Seniors



Deputy Don Rayford with an area senior citizen during Precinct 7 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach.



Deputy Tracey Schells with an area senior citizen during Thanksgiving Outreach.

With more than 450,000 residents in a jurisdiction that spreads out over 94.37 square miles, Harris County Precinct 7 is composed of an extremely diverse constituency with a vast majority being in their "golden years". The safety and well-being of Senior Citizens continues to be a top priority of Constable May Walker and Precinct 7 deputies.

Trusting in nature and not as swift on their feet as they were in younger years, elder citizens are considered easy prey and are often targeted by the common criminal. However, by arming them with prevention and awareness tips and providing them with information on programs and services designed to cater to their needs, crimes and other offenses against elders can be greatly reduced.

Precinct 7 Programs and Services designed to help keep our seniors safe:

Senior Citizen Hotline

Volunteers staff the Hotline and place weekly calls to Seniors in Precinct 7 to make sure they feel safe and to let them know they are not forgotten. This program provides an opportunity for concerned citizens to call in and identify seniors who may have serious problems or concerns. **Senior Citizen Hotline (713)643-6118 Ext 155.**

Senior Inspection Program

This program provides a basic home security check for senior citizens. We point out the importance of having adequate door locks, window locks, working smoke detectors, and working carbon monoxide detectors. **Eligibility:** All senior citizens 65 or older in Precinct 7.



Precinct 7 seniors and Constable May Walker during Thanksgiving Outreach.

Kids and Guns, A Deadly Combination



To ensure that firearms do not fall in the hands of unauthorized individuals, please adhere to the following rules:

- Keep guns in locked, inaccessible, and child-resistant locations.
- Never trust leaving guns laying around the home or out in the open.
- Store guns unloaded and with ammunition secured in a separate place.
- A safe or lockbox are good places to store your unloaded guns and your ammunition.
- A trigger lock can also provide extra security when you store your unloaded guns in a safe or lockbox.

Tips to help protect children at home and away from home:

- Do not assume that your children will know what to do if they find a gun. Studies have shown that most kids who find guns, handle them. Many even pull the trigger, unsure if the gun is real or a toy.
- Even if you do not have a gun in your home, it is important to educate your children about firearm safety in case they discover a gun outside the home or at a friend's house.
- Discuss gun safety with friends or family members especially if your child is going to be spending time in their home.
- For play dates or sleepovers, it is also important to find out if there are guns in these homes and if they are properly stored.

While supplies last, call Precinct 7 at (713)643-6118 and signup to receive a free gun safety lock.

Based on recent findings, firearms can be found in nearly 50% of homes in the United States. Texas law allows homeowners to use deadly force to protect themselves and their property. However, injuries from accidental shootings are more likely to claim the lives of family members or friends than a burglar or an intruder.

Residents with firearms in their homes are urged to take common sense steps to avoid accidental shootings by storing weapons locked and unloaded with ammunition secured in a separate place. Firearms should always be kept in places inaccessible to unauthorized individuals especially children and teens.

Children are naturally curious, especially when it comes to firearms. **Injuries from accidental shootings are the second leading cause of death for children or adolescents in the US.** The chief contributing factor of these unintentional injuries is the ease of access children have to weapons of this kind in their own homes.



Summer Safety



Recently promoted,
Sergeant
David Vaughn

Home Safety and Security

With the number of burglaries and home invasions on the rise and since there is a tendency for break-ins to increase during summer months, it is important for homeowners to take every precaution to secure their property. In a nutshell, the best way to protect your home from being targeted by burglars is to make it difficult for them to gain entry and less enticing or attractive. This can be achieved by including the elements of **time**, **light**, and **noise** in your home security plan.

Time

One characteristic that most criminals have in common is that they look for and prey on easy targets. Burglaries can be prevented if it is too **time** consuming and difficult for intruders to gain entry into a residence. The best ways to protect your home from would-be robbers or thieves include:

- Secure doors and windows at all times if you are home or away. The majority of thieves enter homes through open windows or doors, only one in four break-ins involve forced entry.
- Install deadbolt locks on exterior doors; double cylinder deadbolts provide the greatest protection.
- Solid wood or metal doors offer the most security. Avoid installing hollow core doors or doors mostly made of glass. Burglar-proof your glass patio doors by setting a pipe or metal bar in the middle bottom track of the door slide.
- Keep garage doors shut.
- Keep drapes and blinds shut. Do not advertise the items in your home.
- Store cash, jewelry and other valuables in a safe or safety deposit box instead of leaving them lying around the home.
- Always check to see who is at the door before opening it.
- Do not leave extra keys under doormats, potted plants or any other obvious outdoor locations.
- Do not leave notes on the door for service people or family members. These alert the burglar that you are not home.
- Supervise construction or repair people who come into your home.
- If you plan on being away from home, have a neighbor or friend collect your newspaper and mail. Never cancel delivery - you do not know who will get that information.



Light

Since the goal of most burglars, is to get away with their misdeed without being caught, they are less likely to target homes that do not offer places of concealment. Implementing the following safety tips help ensure visibility of your home from the street allowing neighbors, patrol officers, or passersby to observe any suspicious activity:

- Install outside **lights**. Use motion detectors wherever possible.
- Use a variable light timer to activate lights inside your home.
- Make sure that exterior lights are mounted out of reach, so that burglars can't easily unscrew bulbs.
- Keep bushes and plants trimmed that make it easy for burglars to hide.
- Consider a chain link fence instead of a solid wood one so that your neighbors or patrol officers have a clear line of sight into your yard.



Noise

The final element to include in your home security plan is **noise**. Again, most burglars do not want to draw attention to themselves; therefore a barking dog or a blaring alarm system are both excellent deterrents. Whenever possible, execute the following recommendations:

- Install a security system that alerts police and(or) neighbors of a burglar's presence.
- Get a dog. You don't need a large attack dog; even a small dog creates a disturbance that burglars would prefer to avoid.
- Consider having someone care for your dogs in your home while you're away, instead of boarding them.
- If you're going to be away from home for a few days, adjust your telephone ring to its lowest volume setting. An unanswered phone may tip off a burglar that no one is home.
- Also, if you are away, leave a TV or stereo on in the room where a burglar would most likely break in.

What We Do:

Precinct 7 Programs designed to help residents combat crime in their neighborhoods:

Patrol Alert

To report criminal activity or request that we pay specific attention to any on-going nuisance or anything that might seem suspicious and out of the ordinary residents can visit the Precinct 7 website and fill out the computer generated Patrol Alert form or call **(713)643-6602**. For emergencies, call **911**.

Vacation Watch

This is another free service that Precinct 7 provides to area residents to help prevent burglaries or break-ins while away from their homes for extended periods. Also found on the Precinct 7 website.

See Something Say Something

If you witness any suspicious behavior or anything or anyone who appears strange and out of place, report it anonymously by visiting the Precinct 7 website and fill out the computer generated See Something Say Something form.