

July 2010



## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

### Child Abduction Facts and Prevention

According to the FBI's National Crime Information Center, more than 719,500 missing person records were entered into NCIC in 2009, and 85 to 90 percent of missing persons are juveniles.

While this is a terrifying number, there are steps that parents and caretakers can take to protect their children.

Below is a list of safety tips to assist you:

- Parent and child need to agree on a simple code word for emergencies. Only another trusted adult is to know the code word.
- Make sure your child knows how to contact you, all phone numbers; home, cell, and work.
- Know where your children are and who they are with at all times.
- Never leave your child alone in a public place, stroller, or car.
- Always accompany your child to a public restroom.
- Teach your child how to call 911 and the police.
- Have a plan in case your child gets separated from you in a public place.



#### Teach your children to make sure they stay in groups (of friends) when going anywhere.

- Teach your child to always get permission before getting a ride or going anywhere with someone,
- Know their name, address, phone #, and parents' name(s), and
- Tell your child about child abduction in simple and easy to understand terms. While these steps can help to protect your child, it's important to know that one four letter emotion can render all of your efforts useless. **FEAR**. How can we combat something so deeply ingrained in each of us? "You have to drill into your children that NOISE is their best defense in the face of

abduction. Regardless of the threat that is being made at them or their loved ones, they MUST raise an alarm, cause a commotion, put the fear of being caught into the bad person" according to Detective Ryan O'Connell, a 30 year police veteran.

So what do you do if your efforts don't work and your child still ends up missing? You can end up overwhelmed in a hurry. However, help can be found at the following site: [When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide.](#)

#### Special Links of Related Interest

- [KidSave](#)
- [Parents Should Prepare Kids for Abduction Dangers](#)
- [Child Abduction - Tips for Parents](#)
- [Child Abduction Prevention & Safety Tips](#)
- [McGruff Safe Kids Total I.D. System](#)
- [FBI Safety Tips for Kids](#)
- [Keep Children Safe in Urban Areas](#)
- [How to Talk About Safety Without Scaring](#)
- [FBI Crimes Against Children Facts](#)
- [National Center for Mission and Exploited Children](#)