Family Vacation Safety Tips

keep your family safe...

Sheriff John Zaruba

Parents, preparation goes a long way towards a safe and fun family vacation. Here are a few important safety tips to get you started...

- Make sure you know where your children are at all times, and that they are properly supervised if you aren't with them.
- Teach your children to check with you or with the adult in charge before they go anywhere, get into a car, or accept anything from anyone.
- Have your children carry or wear emergency information that tells how to reach you. Include cell numbers, hotel name & phone number, home phone number, emergency contact, important medical information, and anything else you think is important.
- Talk to your children about what being lost means and what to do if they become lost. Have a plan, and then play the "What if ..." game to ensure they understand the plan. "What if Mommy gets lost?", "What if you get lost?" or "Who is a safe person to ask for help?"., etc…
- Dress kids in bright colors to make them easier to spot. Make a game of remembering what color everyone is wearing that day. If you are with a large group, wear matching T- shirts to help identify your group.
- Take a photo of each child, each day with your cell phone or camera. You will know exactly what they were wearing and have a very current photo if needed in a search.
- Don't leave children alone in a hotel room and always keep your hotel room door bolted when inside.
- Should you realize your child is lost, DON'T look for them alone, IMMEDIATELY get help.
- Consider a child locator or tracking device.
- Consider giving your elementary age children a cell phone while you're out in a crowd as a just-in-case backup.
- Teach your children to never be afraid to say NO and GET AWAY from any person or situation making you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. TRUST YOUR FEELINGS, and be sure to TELL a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way.

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