



MARCH 2010

SOCIAL NETWORKING

TWITTER

SAFETY TIPS

The Internet is all a-buzz about Twitter. What is Twitter? It is a way to keep family, friends, and coworkers up-to-date with what an individual is doing by using instant messenger service, the web, as well as with mobile texting, plus other venues. Messages sent out by Twitter users are limited to 140 characters which is just enough for a quick update.

Twitter like any other web activity should follow the same basic e-safety rules but there are a few Twitter specific safety tips to follow:

- **NEVER** give out personal information such as your full name, address, school, phone number, and email address.
- **NEVER** tell someone that your home is unoccupied at the time you are "Tweeting" them.
- **NEVER** give your Twitter password to anyone outside your family even friends!
- **ALWAYS** tell someone you trust (parent, friend) about any negative or threatening tweets you receive.
- **NEVER** send an on-line person any photographs or anything else without first checking with your parents.
- **NEVER** arrange to meet someone in real life through Twitter.
- Keep your profile information brief.
- Only follow people you know in real life.
- **NEVER** respond to users who you do not know.
- Keep your Twitter feed private and only give people you know permission to use it.
- Consider the content of every tweet.

To report an on-line crime you may call the West Sacramento Police Department's Dispatch at (916) 372-3375.

For more information you may call the West Sacramento Police Department's Crime Prevention unit at (916) 617-4937.