



# MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

March, 2015



*Safety Tips:  
Yard Sale Safety*



Look at any of our local community newspapers on Fridays and see how popular yard sales, estate sales and auctions have become. Listen to folks that look forward to Saturdays, mostly the female gender - they really get involved in looking for the yard bargains at these events. Attending these are fine, but they can be dangerous at best, especially in areas where the areas are in “close communion” for driving and pedestrian safety tips. The fact that we all live in small metropolitan and urban areas, some that are in rural areas, we don’t have to be too concerned with robberies as they do in large areas.

## Tips for Minimizing the Risks for Proprietors and/or Vendors-

- **Keep the areas clear of potential hazards** – Including tripping hazards like tree limbs, unstable tables, large objects on the edge of tables, etc.
- **Exclude your address in advertising materials** – Eliminating your address in advertising materials is a detriment to potential burglars. Attendees have a way of finding the sales, so for the most part you will have “word of mouth” coverage. Attendees have a network of finding the sales.
- **Always try to have two adults at your sale** – Sometimes three is even better. You need one to work the sale functions, assisting with question answering, security and one to be the cashier. Having one as the “designated cashier” helps to avoid a customer claiming to have paid another, thus receiving free items. The third one would be beneficial in checking the area to be sure signage is intact and possibly to fix lunch for the other two.

A good practice and the only tried and true one for yard sales is to refuse checks - **“cash only.”** Also for large bills that distract the cashier and eat up your change, ask them to get change and you will hold the item for them. Try to avoid accepting deposits. If it becomes necessary, hold the merchandise and tag it with the balancer and time to return to complete the sale.

- **Be visible** – Resist the urge to go inside the home, unless you have a person to stay in the sale area. You could miss a sale or miss some merchandise with no one out watching.
- **Keep Doors, Gates and other Property entries open** – If you have clothing racks or gondolas of clothing, avoid placing them in front of entries to the home or gates to the backyard, etc. It isn’t such a bad idea to even lock your house during the sale. (**DON’T LOCK YOURSELF OUT!**)
- **Avoid allowing potential customers to go inside the home** – **Direct** those needing a toilet to the nearest gas station, convenient store, etc. For trying on clothing for sizing, try to have a full length mirror in a private location, but not in the home.

## • **Sign Protection**

Adequate and pertinent signage offers protection for extensive questioning about return or exchange policies and security. Examples of signs to use include the following:

- ~All Sales are Final
- ~All Items Sold as is
- ~No Refunds are given
- ~Not Responsible for Accidents

## • **Honesty with the Customer is critical** –

I want to think that folks having yard sales will have the same integrity that they would want if they were the customer instead of the seller. But unfortunately this isn’t true, according to some folks who frequent these sales.

- ~ You shouldn’t lie about the condition of an item or object.
- ~ If the item doesn’t work or has a defect, be upfront with the customer.
- ~ If the condition has a known defect, making its use questionable, tell the customer up front and ask them to sign a waiver for mutual protection.

## Automobile Safety Tips-

As you are traveling in the area of these sales, all aspects of vehicle safety are critical for you, the chauffeur and for pedestrians attending the sale. Following are some tips to be aware as you are approaching them:

- ✓ Vehicles emerging from junctions or narrow streets and backing out of driveways.
- ✓ Car doors opening ( especially on narrow crowded streets)
- ✓ Pedestrians emerging from between parked cars and children and animals running out and between parked vehicles.
- ✓ Bicyclists and motorcyclists.

Some yard sales occur outside of the city or town corporate limits and have some potential hazards not common to the “in-town” potential hazards:

- ✓ Narrow roads or lanes, sufficient for one vehicle passing. Courteous and timely passing must be practiced in these areas.
- ✓ Blind junctions with overgrown foliage, blocking a clear vision.
- ✓ Slow moving farm equipment.
- ✓ Horses and other farm animals out of their pastures.

Actually anytime that you’re in a town, city or rural area, drive slowly as you are looking for the location, maintaining a constant vigil for all the factors mentioned above. It’s a good idea to make the sales with a friend or “buddy” in order to maintain safety and security, in case you have a “tailgater” and also to look for the location of the sales as you are traveling through the various areas.

Ted Gordon – Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.  
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Excerpts: [www.bestgaragesalestips.com/best\\_garage\\_sale\\_safety\\_tips](http://www.bestgaragesalestips.com/best_garage_sale_safety_tips)  
<http://tips.drivingtipsuccess.com>

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**PRACTICE SAFETY IN ALL YOU DO –  
EVERYONE DEPENDS ON YOU!!**

**STOP ACCIDENTS BEFORE THEY STOP YOU!!!**