

CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

Tips for Homeowners

- Keep property well maintained and well landscaped.
- Trim hedges and trees-This promotes better visibility.
- During night hours, equip home with lights that are on timers when you're not home.
- Always keep doors locked even when your home and always lock them behind you, even when you're going in and out. Always secure all windows, especially ones on the ground level. Criminals take advantage of opportunity.
- Equip doors with deadbolt locks. Always secure bulk-head basement entry doors as well, including the bottom door which enters the basement directly. Make sure all basement windows are secure as well. Fairly inexpensive upgrades of a basement window for older homes can be purchased with the assistance of a reputable contractor.
- Keep cell phone with you inside and around your property in case of emergencies.
- Don't let your mail pile up when you go away. Make arrangements for the mail because you don't want to give the perception that you're not home.
- Set up motion lights around your property.
- If finances are available, alarm systems are a deterrent for the criminal element.
- If you are thinking about, or you already have a fence around your property, it's a good idea to install a fence that promotes some type of visibility to your neighbors, especially in the rear of your home so that a potential criminal can be spotted trying to break in through the rear of your home.
- Don't leave ladders out or tools that could potentially be used to gain access into your home or someone else's home.
- Never let any one inside your home or offer any information to those you don't know. Never let any one inside your home that you do not have a specific appointment with. All contractors should be wearing a clearly visible ID. Don't rely solely on uniforms, traffic vests or a particular vehicle.

- During the winter season, don't leave your vehicle running to warm up unattended at your home or work place, due to the fact that it becomes even easier for car thieves to prosper on opportunity.
- Never supply any one with your personal information over the telephone or internet. Never supply any one with your banking or credit information. Scam artists also prosper on opportunity. (IDENTITY THEFT)
- Area homeowners can also institute a neighborhood watch program as another crime prevention tactic.
- Don't leave any items of value on your property that can be viewed from the road. Secure all of your property, such as lawn equipment etc. in a secure storage shed or garage. Avoid using car ports as a means of security.
- If you're going away on vacation, other than notifying the ones you can trust, don't advertise the fact that you're going away. Load your luggage at an off time of day and avoid securing luggage bins to the roof of your car until the day you are leaving.
- Copy down serial and model numbers of all personal items of value in your home. Save all store receipts for these items as well. It is also a good idea to take video footage of the interior of the home, capturing footage of the valuable items as well. Not only does this aid law enforcement if thefts occur, but it is a good idea for insurance purposes as well. Keep a copy of the video for yourself and secure a second copy in a safety deposit box or by other secure means.
- Secure all small items of value, such as electronics, personal files and jewelry in a vault that can be secured within the home. A safe can be purchased fairly inexpensively and it should be bolted to the floor or wall studs out of view. A safe is a great investment, opposed to the alternative of falling victim to a theft during a burglary.
- Equip your home with clearly visible numbers for your address so that it can be easily located by emergency personnel. Also, let emergency dispatchers know if your home is accessed from another street. The more information that's provided cuts down the response time for your friends and loved ones to receive emergency aid.