



Crime Prevention Tips – Burglary

Observation:

Neighbors should look and listen for:

Someone screaming or shouting for help

Someone looking into windows and parked cars

Unusual noises

Property being taken from houses where no one is at home

Cars, vans, or trucks stopped or moving slowly with no apparent destination or with no lights on.

Home Safety Tips:

Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three inch screws.

Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track and install vertical bolts.

Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.

Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted. Be sure to light areas around windows and doors.

Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Make your residence appear occupied.

Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate.

Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. While large, ornate hedges may be beautiful, they also provide a hiding place for burglars who need only a minute to break in through a window or door.

Consider alarming your home and installing a video monitoring/recording system.

Reporting Crime:

Stay calm.

Call the police immediately!

On the phone, give the police the most important information first—the location of the crime, the type of crime, whether there are injuries, where the criminal went, etc.

Tell the police what happened, when, where, and who was involved.

Describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, and distinctive characteristics (facial hair, scars, tattoos, accent, etc.).

Describe any vehicle involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features: stickers, dents, or decals, as well as the direction of travel from the crime scene.

You may be asked to make a complaint or testify in court. Remember, if you don't help the police, the criminal might hurt someone else.

The police may ask you to attend a lineup or look through collections of "mug shots" to try to identify the person you saw commit the crime.

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