

Simple Crime Fighting Tips

Please take these simple steps to eliminate the opportunity for a crime in your home or on your street.

- **Light Places Discourage Crime/Dark Places Encourage Crime:** Leave a light on at your front and back door all night. Set timers on lights when you are away. Remove dead limbs and bushes from in front of windows. Report all street lights out as soon as you notice them. Call 311, and remember to get a service request number. When you call, give the pole number, address of the house closest to the pole, and say if the pole is wooden or metal.
- Make sure you have your house number close to the front and back doors of your house. Dark numbers on light trim are easiest to read. During an emergency, this could save precious moments.
- Install a peep hole in your exterior doors if you do not have glass around the door. NEVER open the door to a stranger. Call 911 if you are suspicious of a caller.
- Add deadbolt locks to all of your doors, particularly those with glass near the doorknob. Remove the key from the lock. If you want to keep a key close to the door for emergencies, make sure it is not reachable from the glass panels in the door.
- Make sure to notify your neighbors when you are going to be away. Set timers on both indoor and outdoor lights. Arrange for papers, mail and flyers to be taken in, and ask neighbors to place some trash in your super can and wheel it to the alley on trash day. Arrange for the lawn to be mowed while you are away. These simple steps can greatly reduce your chances of becoming the next burglary victim.
- If you have alarm systems in your car and home, use them. If you have an alarm system in your home, and you have a skylight, make sure to have the skylight wired to the alarm system. This is a new way of entering homes without being detected.

- Leave your emergency numbers with a neighbor, and leave a copy by the kitchen phone, if you have one.
- Do not leave lawn mowers, bicycles or baby strollers in the yard unattended.
- NEVER leave your purse in a shopping cart at the market, in your desk at work unattended, or on the back of your chair in public. Not only will your money and credit cards be used, but you could lose your personal identity. Personal identity theft is the fastest growing crime in our area.
- Shred **all** documents that contain any personal information about you or your family members (bank statements, credit card receipts, etc.) to avoid being a victim of Identity Theft.
- Never take valuables to the Gym with you. Even lockers that are locked can be the scene of a theft.
- Check your surroundings before getting out of your car on your way into the house, and out of the house on your way into your car.
- Remove all valuables from sight in your car, especially GPS, iPods, CDs, cameras, laptops, purses and money. If you must leave something in your car, store it in the trunk. When valet parking, leave only your car key.
- NEVER leave your car running without you in it. Besides inviting a car theft, it is also illegal.
- If you witness a crime, write down the details as soon as possible, and keep the paper in a safe place. It could mean the difference between a conviction and an acquittal. Call 911 and read from your sheet.
- Get to know your neighbors. If you know who belongs on your block, it is easier to spot someone who does not belong. Report suspicious behavior to the police. If you suspect it is a crime, call 911. Use the words "**Possible Crime in Progress.**" Get involved in your community. Apathy is the partner of crime.