

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Make sure every external door has sturdy, well-installed deadbolt locks with a minimum of a 1" bolt.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door, incase someone tries to pry it open.
- Secure double-hung windows by using key locks. Secure the basement windows too.
- If you've just moved into a new house or apartment, have the locks changed.
- Locks aren't effective if they are on flimsy doors. Make sure all exterior doors are metal or solid, 1 ¾" hardwood.
- Doors should fit tightly in their frames, with hinge pins on the inside.
- Install a peep hole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors, so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains are not security devices; they break easily and won't keep out an intruder.
- To discourage burglars from selecting your home as their target of opportunity, make sure to:
 - Trim shrubbery that hides doors or windows.
 - Cut tree limbs that could help a thief climb into windows.
 - Turn on outside lights after dark to illuminate porches, entrances and yards (front and back).
 - Consider timers that turn on outside lights, or install motion detectors.
 - Keep your yard well-maintained
 - Store ladders and tools inside your locked garage, or storage shed when you are not using them.
- Clearly display your house number, so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.
- Keep up the appearance of the neighborhood. Broken street lights, abandoned cars, vacant buildings, graffiti, litter and rundown areas attract crime.
- Put lights and a radio on timers to create the illusion that someone is at home when you go away. Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions. Stop the mail and newspapers, or ask a neighbor to take them in.
- Update your home inventory, listing items like VCR's, stereo, cameras and computers. Take photos or make videos of items, list descriptions and serial numbers.
- If you have valuables in your home, or if you live in an isolated area or a neighborhood vulnerable to break-ins, consider an alarm system. Before you invest in alarms:
 - Check with several companies and decide what level of security fits your needs.
 - Look for an established company and check its references before using them.
 - Learn how to use your system properly

