

HOME SAFETY

There are several simple steps that residents can take to protect their homes from becoming a target of a crime.

- Install outdoor lighting to illuminate areas around your home such as entrances and the garage/carport.
- Keep shrubs and bushes trimmed to eliminate hiding places for burglars and other criminals.
- Always keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are at home.
- Install a peephole in your front door.
- Remember to always shut your garage door.
- Secure windows and sliding glass doors with auxiliary locks. Special door pins, available at home improvement stores, can prevent your sliding doors from being lifted from their tracks during a burglary attempt.
- Ensure that all exterior doors have deadbolts installed for added security.
- NEVER store or hide keys outside or under your door mat.
- Bring all garage door remotes into your home. Never leave a remote in a car in your driveway.
- Don't advertise big purchases by putting empty boxes by the road.
- **NEVER open the door for anyone you don't know.**

Whenever you will be away from your home for extended periods be sure to take the following precautions:

- Notify a friend or family member that you will be away and ask them to periodically check on your home.
- Use timers to turn lights on inside your home to give the appearance that your home is occupied.
- Have your newspaper and mail held or picked up by a friend or neighbor.
- Ask your neighbor to park in your driveway and use your trash cans.
- Request a "Watch Protection" through the Sherriff Department.