

# Police Department



## PREVENT HOME BURGLARIES

Is your home or apartment an "Easy Target" for burglars? Homes are targets for burglaries whether you are at home or away. It is important to remember to close garage doors when you're home or even in the back yard. Many items have been taken when one is home. When planning for a vacation or weekend get away, don't forget to think about your home and what you are leaving. The feeling of coming home and finding your house burglarized is not a good one. Not only would there be financial expenses to make repairs and replace missing items; but also emotional reactions, such as fear, depression, vulnerability, and many more. As home burglaries are on the rise in the area, it is necessary to take all precautions to prevent being victimized. Most burglars are looking for homes that are "easy targets," that is, those that are quickly entered and where they can work undetected. Weak locks, common in many homes, makes the job easy. If you plan ahead, your home will not be an "easy target." Some simple suggestions to increase security are:

Lock all locks - windows and doors.

Secure your garage door - disconnect automatic openers to prevent accidental opening.

Put one or two lights, in different parts of the house, on automatic timers.

Stop deliveries of newspapers, mail or other items that might pile up on your doorstep or porch OR arrange for someone to pick them up.

Arrange draperies, blinds, shades, etc. as if you are home. Don't close them all.

Don't leave notes on the door saying you are gone.

If you have an answering machine, don't leave a message saying you are out-of-town nor give the length of time you will be gone.

Put valuable jewelry, coins, etc. in a safe or a place hidden from sight. Don't leave money laying around the home.

Let your neighbors know you will be gone and for

how long so they can keep an eye out for strange happenings.

A house sitter is another way to fool burglars. This is an especially good idea if you live in a rural, remote or secluded area.

A house sitter can be a friend or neighbor. A house sitter can:

pick up mail, and other things left at the door;

Mow or Rake the lawn;

check the automatic timer on the lights are working and the light bulbs have not burnt out;

park a car in the driveway; and

check the house for any other problems that might occur such as a freezer breaking down, storm damage, broken pipes, etc.

It only takes a few extra moments to secure your home when your in the house or back yard, before you take off on a trip or extended stay away from home. Make sure your home isn't an "easy target" for unwanted visitors. You will leave and return home feeling much better if your home is

secured.



### What to do if your Home is Broken into...

Report it to the police immediately. In addition, be ready to provide them with the a detailed list of items taken to include the current market value.

### To Report a Crime Call...

- Dispatch—252-2911

### Police Headquarters...

TRU—545-3500

### Emergency...

# 911