



Crime Prevention Tip Sheet

Updated March 28, 2017

Criminals are opportunists. These are tips from our local law enforcement officers to prevent crime in our neighborhood. Let's work together as a neighborhood to eliminate their opportunities here so that they will move on elsewhere. For more information on the ENP and VIP programs, please visit www.umna.org/enp.html and www.umna.org/vip.html, respectively.

- LOCK your vehicle and remove your keys. A large percentage of automobile break-ins involve unsecured vehicles.
- NEVER leave valuables inside of the vehicle where they can be seen in plain view.
- TRIM back any shrubbery that hides the doors or windows of your house.
- ILLUMINATE your yards and entranceways. Consider using motion-detection lighting.
- NEVER open your door to anyone that you do not know, but ask who they are or tell them to go away so that they know someone is home.
- LOCK your doors whether you are at home or away.
- KEEP your garage door closed and locked, even when you are home or in the backyard.
- HALF of all home burglaries occur during the day. Be alert to any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area. If anything seems out of place, notify the police immediately.
- BE OBSERVANT of repair men, construction workers or service workers who might be thieves. If their behavior or location seems out of the ordinary, notify the police.
- CONSIDER investing in an alarm system.
- CONSIDER installing video cameras, or including them in your alarm service package.
- GET TO KNOW your immediate neighbors and familiarize yourself with the types of vehicles they drive.
- COMMUNICATE with immediate neighbors about out-of-town guests or hired services performed at each other's houses so that there is less hesitance to inform authorities of suspicious cars or behavior.
- PARK your cars in your garage.
- DOGS are an excellent crime deterrent as even small ones will alert home owners to a stranger's presence.
- FENCE your yard. Fences that are at least 8 feet high and made of wood or stone are much more difficult to breach and prevent criminals from seeing what you have in your yard or house.
- LOCK your gate with a lock that cannot be cut with boltcutters.
- KEEP UP on crime trends and spread the word.
- INVEST in Expanded Neighborhood Patrol. The Dallas Police Department's resources are stretched more than ever right now.
- JOIN your neighborhood Volunteers in Patrol program.
- ASK police to evaluate your home for potential security weaknesses.