

WELCOME
TO



NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH



Douglas County Sheriff's Office
www.dcsso.com



Phone Numbers You May Need

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise specified.

Emergency9-1-1

Non-Emergency/Suspicious Activity..440-4471

Douglas County Sheriff's Office440-4450

Animal Control440-4327

Civil Processing440-4468

Concealed Handgun Licensing.....957-2021

DINT Drug Activity Tip Line440-4474

Emergency Management/SAR440-4448

Douglas County Jail.....440-4440

Inmate Work Crew440-4564

Investigations Division440-4458

Marine Patrol440-4447

Neighborhood Watch440-4486

Property/Evidence Unit.....440-4460

Records.....440-4463

Other County Departments

Douglas County Circuit Court957-2450

Douglas County District Attorney.....440-4388

Douglas County Juvenile Dept.....440-4409

Douglas County Mental Health440-3532

Parole and Probation957-8148

Douglas County Public Works.....440-4208

Douglas County Senior Services440-3580

Other Law Enforcement Agencies

Myrtle Creek Police Dept. 863-5222

Oakland Police Dept. 459-2661

Reedsport Police Dept. 271-2100

Roseburg Police Dept. 673-6633

Sutherlin Police Dept..... 459-2211

Winston Police Dept. 679-8706

Oregon State Police..... 440-3333

Other Useful Numbers

A.D.A.P.T. Addiction Counseling 672-2691

Battered Persons' Advocacy..... 673-7867

Child Welfare & Protection 440-3373

Douglas County C.A.R.E.S. 957-5646

Juvenile Fire-Setter Program 673-4459

Reedsport Family Resource Ctr..... 271-9700

Saving Grace Animal Shelter 672-3907

UCAN Emergency Support Service... 672-3421

V.I.N.E. (Victim Notification)..... 877-674-8463



Neighborhood Watch Program

What are the benefits of a Neighborhood Watch Program?

- Getting to know your neighbors
- Increasing your awareness by learning more about your neighborhood
- Neighbors helping neighbors. Knowing that there are other people in your neighborhood watching out for the safety of your home and neighborhood.
- Feeling safer in your home, neighborhood and community because of your increased awareness and personal safety efforts.
- Knowing that you are not alone in your concerns. You will meet people in your neighborhood and throughout your community who you have a lot in common with.
- Learning what can be done to solve neighborhood problems and creating new solutions instead of feeling powerless. Increased ability to get things done through organizations and departments because "there is strength in numbers."
- Learning how to work with your local law enforcement agency to solve problems and assist them in being more responsive to the community's needs.
- Positive effect on property values.

Neighborhood Watch is primarily designed to increase livability in and the security of our neighborhoods by involving as many individuals and families as possible in a united effort to prevent crime.

When you join a Neighborhood Watch group you learn:

- To be familiar with neighbors and activities on your street or road.
- To recognize and report suspicious activity.
- To increase home and personal security.
- To engrave personal property correctly.
- To communicate with neighbors on a regular basis.
- To create a sense of belonging to your neighborhood and increase your sense of "home."

The Different Parts of Neighborhood Watch

Communication

Open and continuing communication between neighbors themselves and their local Law Enforcement is the most important part of a successful Neighborhood Watch group. When residents know each other, it builds trust and relationships that will help increase your safety and your sense of well-being. Communicating with local Law Enforcement keeps people informed of what's happening in their area and lets Law Enforcement address citizens' concerns.

Through neighborhood meetings, newsletters, etc., Neighborhood Watch creates that communication network that keeps everyone informed and motivated.

Relationships

Getting to know your neighbors will improve your community, increase your security and let you know about the resources available to you. When people know each other, they care about one another and where they live. Their neighborhood becomes a safer place and more livable.

Attitude

Successful crime prevention, personal safety and neighborhood improvement are based on your attitude and willingness to make such issues a priority. Individual involvement in Neighborhood Watch entails addressing individual attitudes about crime prevention, personal safety and control. Attitude affects your ability to solve problems. A positive attitude, a willingness to accept responsibility and looking for solutions to common problems are an important part of Neighborhood Watch.

Habits

Neighborhood Watch is also a process of learning and putting into practice, safety and other common sense prevention ideas into everyday life. Crime prevention means looking at how you live and how you can decrease your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Awareness

By becoming aware of what is going on in your neighborhood—from the people who are supposed to be there, to the sorts of crimes that could be occurring—you will be more likely to recognize suspicious activity and crime in progress.

Suspicious activity is difficult to recognize if you are unaware of who or what should be there. Plus awareness will increase your confidence in recognizing suspicious activity and in your ability to report it to Law Enforcement.

Ownership—Who "owns and cares" about your neighborhood?

You can advertise "ownership" by maintaining a well-kept home/property, and by putting Neighborhood Watch signs on your street/road and stickers in your windows. Also by not leaving doors and windows unlocked, by implementing Operation Identification and by calling local Law Enforcement if you see or hear suspicious activity or crimes you witness.

Action

By working together people can often accomplish what an individual thought was impossible. There are many ways neighbors can organize and "problem solve" to change their neighborhood in a positive way. From periodic neighborhood meetings, letter writing campaigns, and to "neighborhood clean-ups," Neighborhood Watch groups can make a difference.

How to Organize a Neighborhood Watch Meeting

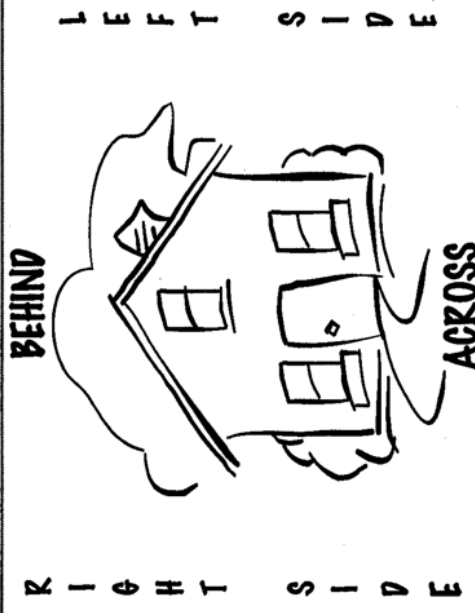
1. Contact your neighbors: As many as you like, but don't overcrowd your home. About 10 to 15 homes is a optimum size. Remember, those neighbors who are interested, but can't attend the meeting because of prior commitments, may still be part of the programs as long as someone in the group can pass along the information.
2. Advise your neighbors of the meeting date. Meetings generally last 1 to 2 hours and will consist of:
 - Concerns and issues of the neighborhood
 - Expectations and goals of the neighborhood
 - Home security advice and training
3. If possible, before the meeting, make up a map of the area encompassing your neighborhood and complete a phone tree or e-mail list. On the map, add names, addresses and telephone numbers of each household. Make enough copies to allow distribution to all of the neighbors who wish to be involved.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____ AWAY _____
 (AUTOS) _____
 Make/Model _____ Year _____
 Lic.# _____
 SPECIAL INFORMATION _____

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____ AWAY _____
 (AUTOS) _____
 Make/Model _____ Year _____
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Communication Tree

Neighborhood Watch Calling Guide

Call the police first (either 9-1-1 or non-emergency 440-4471), then call the Neighborhood Watch Captain. Remember:

- If you call the next person on the tree and you get no answer or an answering machine, keep the tree going by calling the next level.
- When you get to the bottom of the tree, the person on the bottom must call the Captain to tell them the message. This checks for accuracy.

Captain
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Neighbor
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Neighbor
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Address:
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Working with The Police



What Number Do I Call?

- 9-1-1 If it **IS** a life-threatening emergency
- 440-4471 If it is **NOT** a life-threatening emergency
- 440-4450 For general information (Sheriff's Office)

What Do I Need To Tell Them When I Call?

- **What** happened?
- **When** did it happen?
- **Where** did it happen?
- **Who** did it?

Suspect Description:

Race/sex
Clothing
Height/weight
Hair color
Other identifying marks/traits

Vehicle Description:

Color/make/model/year
License plate number
Direction of travel
Other identifying features

Do I have to give my name, address or phone number?

No; however, it is helpful to have that information in case we need to re-contact you for additional information.

Will the officer stop and talk to me?

Not unless you specifically request it. If you want to talk to the officer, tell the dispatcher when you call in.

Don't Just Call.....Call With Information

Suspicious Activity...What Is It?

Suspicious activity is any activity that is questionable. In your neighborhood you know the "normal" type of activity that takes place. Suspicious activity is anything that just doesn't look right.

What to look for:

- Cars/trucks driving slowly cruising streets.
 - Do these cars/trucks fit the area?
 - Do the drivers fit the area?
 - What are the drivers actions?
 - Does the driver appear to notice what you are doing?
- People going door to door in a residential area.
 - Do they fit the area?
 - Are they checking out homes that don't look to be occupied?
 - Do they seem to be waiting or loitering in the area?
 - Are they checking the rear of the residences when no one answers the door?
- People loitering around parked cars.
 - Do they fit the area?
 - Do they seem to be peering into the cars looking for something?
 - Are they checking to see if the cars are unlocked?
 - Have you heard any breaking glass or car alarms?

How do you report suspicious activity?

Call the police about all suspicious activity. Do not worry about bothering them. This is their job. Don't feel embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded.

If it is just something that looks out of the ordinary, call the non-emergency number at **(541) 440-4471**.

If you have just **WITNESSED** someone breaking into a home (i.e., breaking a window, prying open a front door, etc.), you would call **9-1-1**.

Keep in mind, 9-1-1 is for calls that are an emergency. The non-emergency number will still connect you with our dispatchers, but allows the 9-1-1 phone lines to remain open for true emergency calls.

Information Needed by Police

Physical description of Person/Persons:

- Height
- Weight
- Age
- Hair color
- Eye color
- Facial hair (beard, mustache, goatee, etc.)
- Scars/Tattoos
- Clothing worn (shirt/tie, jeans, t-shirt, trousers, jacket, sandals, tennis shoes, boots, hat, etc.)
- Sex
- Ethnic background (Black, White, Hispanic, Indian, Asian, etc.)

Description of Vehicle:

- Year
- Color
- Make (Ford, Chevy, Dodge, etc.)
- Model
- Color of vehicle
- How many doors
- License plate number (is it out-of-state?)
- Special markings (pinstriping, mag tires, unusual paint job, vinyl top, rims, etc.)
- Direction of travel

Method and Direction of Escape:

- On foot, in a vehicle, on a bike, scooter, skateboard, etc.
- North, South, East or West

Location

- Yours
- Suspicious person's

Brief description of his/her activities that make them suspicious.

Target Hardening Tips

If you wish to keep your house from being broken into, you must make yourself a "hard target." "Target Hardening" focuses on the concept that criminals often seek and easy target to prey on. If you make yourself a hard target, the criminal will simply move to a more vulnerable victim. Here are some tips to help make you a "hard target."

Garage Door: Keep it closed and locked. This helps protect valuable property stored in your garage and prevents access to interior doors to the house. An open garage is an invitation for a burglar.

Garage Windows: Garage windows should be locked and reinforced with mesh screening. They should be covered with shades or blinds so a burglar cannot look inside for possible loot or for an indication of someone being home.

Storage Sheds: Storage sheds or outside building should be securely locked. Any tools or equipment which could help a burglar break into your house should be locked in the shed or in a locked garage.

Sliding Glass Doors: Secure your patio doors, too. A broomstick, dowel, or finger-operated lock can help. A pin-type lock or a key is better. Two or three screws in the overhead track will reduce the chance of lifting the door out of the track.

Fences: Fences make it harder for a burglar to carry away large items, but are only effective if the gates are locked. Gates should always be locked.

Warning Signs: A sign indicating an alarm system has been installed, that a dangerous dog is present, or other warning signs can be a good deterrent. To be effective signs must be of sufficient size to attract attention and be in a conspicuous place.

Perimeter Lighting: All sides of your home should be protected by security lighting. Attractive, low-wattage lighting may be an effective way to keep intruders from getting interested.

Wide Angle Viewers: Put a peephole in your front door and USE IT. Never open your door to a stranger. Make sure the eyeviewer give you at least 180 degrees of visibility.

Side and Rear Windows: Windows that cannot be seen from the street because of location or fences are a favorite place of entry for burglars. These windows must be locked with secure locks. They may require the use of iron bars, grills, or special burglar resistant glass or plastic panes.

Roof Openings: All skylights, roof vent openings or any other potential ceiling entrance should be reinforced with metal bars or heavy screens.

Outside: Trim back shrubbery that hides door or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb into second story windows. Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well-lighted. Help keep your neighborhood in good shape. Dark alleys, litter and run-down areas attract crime.

Mailbox: Your mailbox should be located so it can be seen and observed by your neighbors. Put only your street address on the box, not your name.

Key Sense: Do not hide house keys in mailboxes, planters or under doormats. Give a duplicate key to a trusted friend or neighbor in case you are locked out. Do not put any personal identification on key rings. Leave only your ignition key with service mechanics and parking attendants. If you lose the keys to your home or move, change the locks immediately.

Answering the Door: Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. A short chain between the door and the jamb is not a good substitute because it can be broken easily. Don't open the door to anyone you do not know without first verifying that person's identity.

Answering the Telephone: Don't give any information to "wrong number" callers. Ask what number they were dialing. Check references of any person calling about a survey or credit check before volunteering information. Offer to call the person back instead of responding immediately. Hang up immediately on any threatening or harassing calls. If the caller persists, call police and the phone company.

Be a Good Neighbor: Good neighbors should look out for each other. Get to know your neighbors on each side of your home and the directly across the street. Good neighbors will watch out for your home or apartment when you are away, if you ask them. They can pick up your mail, newspapers, and can inspect the outside or inside of your home periodically to see that all is well. Good neighbors know to report suspicious activity to the police or to you while you are away.

Vacation Tips

Going Away? *Burglars hope to avoid confrontations, so make your home look occupied!* Leave lights on and the radio playing, preferably a talk show, when you go out. Keep your garage door closed and locked. Use inexpensive timing devices to turn inside lights and radio on and off at different times. If no one will be at home for more than a few days, arrange to have someone pick up the mail and newspapers. Have deliveries stopped or sent elsewhere.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME:

- Plan your trip and give the itinerary with emergency phone numbers to a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Request a vacation house check be done by your local law enforcement agency.
- Place identification tags on the inside and outside of your luggage. Use your first initial and last name only.
- Install good locks on your doors and windows and be sure to use them.
- Remove all exterior "hidden" house keys.
- Make sure all valuables are engraved with your driver's license number and expiration date.
- Make a record of your credit card and travelers check numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible while you're away.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail, newspaper and packages on a daily basis. You can also stop delivery of both for the time you will be gone.
- Use automatic timers to turn on a radio, lights, etc., at different intervals.
- Turn down the ringer on your telephone. An unanswered telephone is a dead giveaway.
- Make arrangements of the care of your pets.



Operation Identification

What is Operation Identification?

"Operation Identification" is a proven program whereby people **make an inventory record** of their property and then **mark their own property** with an **"Owner Applied" identification number that can be traced directly to them**. This greatly improves their chances of having the property recovered and returned to them should it ever be stolen.

How to Mark Your Property.

Using an engraving tool inscribe your driver's license number, prefaced by **"OR"** for **Oregon** and followed by **"DL"** for **Driver's License**:

Example:

OR1234567DL

A driver's license number is **the most desirable identification number to use** because it is directly traceable to you. If you do not drive, you can get an Oregon Identification Card from the DMV. Mark your property in the same way you would if it were a driver's license number. (See above)

Where to Mark Your Property.

Your "mark" should be plainly visible to anyone examining your property, such as an officer, dealing with recovered items. Make sure it is in an accessible spot, permanently affixed to the item, not on a removable part like a lid, a plate, doors, etc. Professional thieves often remove manufacturer's serial numbers or etch over your engraved mark. This will be apparent to an examining officer/deputy. **For ADDED protection, against erasure of your mark, engrave the item a second time in a more obscure spot, like the inside cover.**

What makes Operation Identification so effective?

Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or resell. It can be traced to the rightful owner with relative ease. And, if the burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

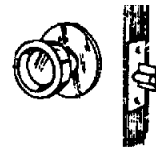
After marking your property, make a list of your valuables and keep a copy of the list in a safe place. If you should become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from the list. This will be of great help to the police in their attempts to recover the stolen items.

Locks



The spring latch lock is a privacy lock and should not be used for security. It offers no protection. The bolt can easily be slipped by a plastic credit card, fingernail file, or thin bladed knife.

There is also a type of spring latch lock with the addition of a "deadbolt latch," it offers better protection against being slipped if installed correctly. However, this lock offers little protection against being forced because the burglar simply twists the doorknob off with a pipe wrench or vice grips.



DEADBOLTS

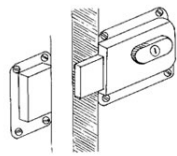
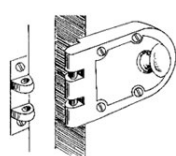
It is highly recommended that all exterior doors be equipped with a good quality deadbolt lock. A deadbolt should have the following:

1. A solid, case-hardened steel cylinder guard; a rotating cylinder guard is even better.
2. A bolt that protrudes at least 1 inch.
3. Case-hardened fasteners to hold both pieces of the lock securely to the door.

Another excellent lock is the rim lock or vertical deadbolt. It comes in single or double cylinder varieties and features two vertical deadbolts that slide into hardened metal hasps attached to the door jamb. This type of lock cannot be slipped, forced with a wrench, or pried open.

Vertical Deadbolt Lock

Horizontal Deadbolt Lock



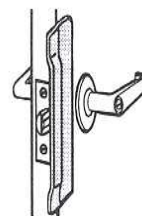
Another type of rim lock utilizes a large, horizontal, sliding bar. It is less expensive than other types but equally effective. However, both of these locks are only as strong as the screws that attach them to the doorframe.

SECURITY STRIKE PLATE

The strike plates on all exterior doors should be anchored with screws 2 to 3 inches long so they reach well into the stud. This will make it extremely difficult for a thief to kick the door open.

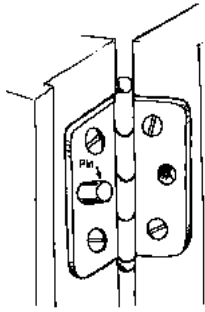
LATCH BOLT DOOR GUARD

The Blocker. The latch door guard for that added protection against forced entry attempts. It mounts to the door with four heavy-duty bolts



DOOR HINGES

Many homes have doors which open to the outside, exposing the hinge pins. Despite your good strong lock, the burglar can remove the pins and lift the door from the frame.



There are hinges which have non-removable pins or hinges containing set screws to prevent pin removal.

To prevent this, remove two opposing screws from each leaf of the hinge. Screw a lag bolt into the jamb, sawing off the head. Or use a headless nail, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the nail or bolt protruding. Drill out the opposite hole in the jamb leaf. Do this to both top and bottom hinges. When the door is closed the hinge pins may be removed, but the door will remain firmly in place.

If the hinge screws do not line up with each other do the following:

1. Drive the pin into the frame just below the hinge.
2. Drill a hole in the edge of the door.
3. The hole should be larger in diameter than the pin.

This is good protection for any door, regardless of how the hinge pins have been installed.

SLIDING WINDOWS

There are several types of anti-slide locks available for securing sliding windows. Metal pins, screws and lag bolts can also be used. Do not use a lock that is difficult to remove on a window that is an emergency exit. Install wood screws in the upper track above the window. The screw heads should just clear the window, allowing it to slide, but not lift. A wood dowel the appropriate diameter can be used in place of the screws. The dowel should be the same width as the sliding portion of the window.

CASEMENT WINDOWS

Casement windows secure best when the latch works properly and the window shuts tightly. Removing the window makes it harder on the thief if he should break the glass to open the window. Drill a small hole through the latch frame and the latch handle. A metal pin or small padlock can be inserted, locking the latch closed.



Residential Security Survey

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked "no" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

Exterior Doors	Yes	No	Outdoor Security	Yes	No
Do all exterior doors have deadbolt locks with a 1-inch throw?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shrubs and bushes are cut to the lower edge of the window, so you can see the window clearly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees are cut 6-7 feet off the ground, so no one can use them to hide behind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doors feature wide-angel peep-holes, with at least a 180 degree angle, at heights everyone can use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you leave a front porch or carport light on all night, or use motion sensor lighting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If there are glass panels in or near the doors, they are reinforced in some way so they cannot be shattered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are gates to the backyard secured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do all exterior doors have security strike plates with at least four or more 3-inch screws?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the circuit box secured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have any access to your attic from outside, is it secured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garage & Sliding Door Security			Is your address visible from the street during the day and night?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have any "hidden" keys? Remove them if you do. Burglars know all the hiding places!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overhead garage door has a lock so that you do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property		
Garage doors are closed when not in active use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked with high-security laminated padlocks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sliding glass doors have an anti-lift device or plate and an additional locking device.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grills, lawn mowers and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A dowel or pin to secure a sliding glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar or quality padlock and chain; and are always locked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sliding door is locked every night and each time you leave the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Your home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vehicle Security

Though professional car thieves have entered the field in increasing numbers, most cars are still taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. You can greatly increase your protection against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions.

LOCK UP

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. *Lock up whenever you leave your car, and take the keys with you.*
- Lock the trunk and/or tailgate.
- Close all the windows—professional thieves have tools that help unlock cars through a minimum of open space.
- When you park the car, remove valuable possessions from the car. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages, bags, cameras, cell phones, MP3 players or any other valuables lying on the seat of your car. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.

PARK CAREFULLY

- Park in open, well-lighted, and populated areas near your destination. Avoid parking near trucks, vans, dumpsters, and other objects that obstruct visibility and provide hiding places. Avoid parking near strangers loitering or sitting in vehicles.
- Avoid parking public parking lots for an extended period of time. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car—and your home.
- At night, park in well-lighted areas with pedestrian traffic.
- Whenever possible, turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, making it extra difficult for thieves to attempt to tow your car.
- Be sure all windows are shut tight. These are a favorite means of entry for car thieves.
- Have keys ready to open car door quickly.
- Install an alarm system that will sound when someone attempts to break in, move, tilt, or start your vehicle. Always activate the system when leaving the vehicle.

USE "ANTI-THEFT" DEVICES

- When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
 - Interior hood lock and release.
 - A second ignition switch or "kill switch" which prevents electrical current from reaching coil distributor.
 - A fuel switch which prevents fuel from reaching the carburetor.
 - A locking gas cap.
 - Locking devices for batteries, wheels, decks, etc.
 - An alarm device which will activate a siren, horn or lights -- or all three --to frighten the thief away before he is able to steel your car. *Avoid a security system with an override feature.*

How to Be "Streetwise" and Safe

Knowing how to protect yourself — and joining with your neighbors to make your streets safer places to be — can reduce the opportunity for street criminals to strike.

3 Basic Rules:

- **DO** stay alert. Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you. Don't get distracted. If you're worried about crime, ask a friend to accompany you when you go out.
- **DO** communicate the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going. Stand tall, walk purposefully, and make quick eye contact with people around you.
- **DO** trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

When Walking in Your Neighborhood:

- Plan the safest route to your destination and use it. Choose well-lighted busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, or construction sites. Take the long way if it's the safest.
- Know your neighborhood. Find out what stores and restaurants are open late and where the police and fire stations are.
- Make sure you know where your children are going when they go out and encourage them to play with other kids. Show them safe places in the neighborhood where they can go if they ever feel scared.
- Carry your purse close to your body and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat or side trouser pocket, not in a rear trouser pocket.
- Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages and groceries that make it hard to react.
- Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- If you suspect you're being followed by someone on foot, cross the street and head for the nearest well-lighted, populated area. Walk quickly or run to a house or store to call police. If you are really scared, scream for help.
- If you are being followed by someone in a car, change direction immediately and make a visible point of writing down the license number.

In The Car:

- Keep your car in good running condition to avoid breakdowns.
- Drive with all car doors locked. Keep windows rolled up whenever possible.
- Park in well-lighted areas that will still be well-lighted when you return. Lock your car doors.
- If you are being followed while driving, drive to the nearest police or fire station, open gas station or other business, or well-lighted residence where you can safely call police. Try to get the car's license number and description. If no safe areas are near, honk the horn repeatedly and turn on your emergency flashers.

Jogging, Biking and Other Outdoor Activities:

- Choose routes in advance that are safe and well populated.
- Vary your route and schedule.
- Avoid jogging and biking at night.
- Know businesses that are open and locations of police and fire stations.
- Consider carrying a shriek alarm.
- Consider **not** wearing your stereo headphone. It's safer to be alert.

What If It Happens To You?

- Remain calm; try not to show any signs of anger or confusion.
- If the attacker is only after your purse or other valuables, don't resist. You don't want to escalate a property crime into a violent confrontation.
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of your attacker; age, race, complexion, body build, height, weight, type and color of clothing, tattoos, piercings, etc.
- Call the police immediately, identifying yourself and your location. Contact your local victim assistance agency to help you deal with the trauma that all crime victims experience. They can also help you learn about victim compensation laws and how to follow your case's progress.

Take Action Today

Help reduce opportunities for street crime in your community.

- Make sure street lighting is adequate and parks, vacant lots, and alleys are free of debris and graffiti.
- Get together with your neighbors and local law enforcement to start a mutual protection program like Neighborhood Watch.
- Try to make sure teens in your community have a place for their energies — a cleaned up park, recreation center/areas, community tasks.
- Volunteer to escort a friend or neighbor who goes to work or class at night.
- If you see a crime being committed, call the police immediately and stay with the victim until the police get there. Be supportive and offer to accompany the victim to the hospital or police station. How would you feel if you needed help and no one volunteered?



Credit Information

Free Credit Reports (Annual)

Web: www.annualcreditreport.com (Do not access through pop-ups or email.)

Telephone: 1-877-322-8228

Mail: Standardized form must be used. (Download at www.ftc.gov/credit)

Send to: Annual Credit Report Request Services
P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

To Protect Your Personal Information:

To "opt out" of receiving pre-screened credit card offers,
Call: 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688)
Web: www.optoutprescreen.com

To remove your name from direct mail lists:

DMA Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

Send your name, address and telephone number to the above addresses or visit www.dmaconsumers.org for more information.

To place your name on the national "Do Not Call" list:

Call 1-888-382-1222
Web: www.donotcall.gov

To report Identity Theft:

Call the Federal Trade Commission toll-free number, 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338)
Write: ID Theft Clearinghouse, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20580, or
Web: www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Call the Social Security Number Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271; Web: www.ssa.gov

Call each of the three credit bureaus listed below and request a "fraud alert" be placed on your account.

Credit Bureau	To Obtain a Credit Report	To Report Fraud
Equifax www.equifax.com	Call: 1-800-685-1111 Write: P O Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241	Call: 1-800-525-6285 AND Write: address at left
Experian www.experian.com	Call: 1-888-EXPERIAN (1-888-397-3742) Write: P O Box 2104 Allen, TX 75013	Call: 1-888-397-3742 Or Write: address at left
TransUnion www.tuc.com	Call: 1-800-916-8800 Write: P O Box 1000 Chester, PA 19022	Call: 1-800-680-7289 AND Write: Fraud Victims Assistance Division P O Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92634