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Burglary Prevention Tips

During the holidays and the decrease of daylight hours, the probability of being a victim of burglary increases. Listed are crime prevention tips for residents to lessen their chance of becoming a victim.

Home burglary prevention

- Keep doors locked even when you are at home. It's easy for others to enter your residence without knowing, particularly if you're in a back room or if your stereo or TV is playing.
- Keep balcony door, including upper floors locked. A screen door is not a security device. It is not uncommon for persons to climb to upper floor balconies to gain entry.
- Record the make, model and serial number of valuables and keep records in a safe place. It is also a good idea to take photographs / video of valuable property.
- Always lock your home before leaving.
- Don't hide house keys outside. Criminals know the common hiding spots where house keys are routinely kept.
- Make your house "hard". That is, make it difficult for a burglar to enter your home. If a criminal perceives it as difficult to enter, the chances are the criminal will try elsewhere.

Develop a rapport with your neighbors. Establish an understanding that you can count on them and they can count on you to report suspicious activities to the police. Nothing beats a cautious and observant neighbor.

- Have good lighting. Put plenty of lighting around the perimeter of your home. If you don't want your house lit up all night, install motion detectors. They have the added advantage of startling a burglar.
- Install or utilize a burglar alarm and one with a panic button in the event you are home and there is a possible intruder.
- Dogs are a good deterrent. Burglars will generally avoid a home with a dog. However, dogs are not foolproof. Many dogs tend to be too friendly.
- Many burglars enter homes through poorly protected sliding glass doors.