



## Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse

### *"Burglary Prevention Tips"*

#### Home Burglary

One of the most common threats to any home is burglary. A person is guilty of committing a burglary when they knowingly enter or remain in a dwelling with the intent to commit a crime. Becoming a victim of a burglary can leave a family feeling vulnerable and violated. To prevent this crime from occurring it's important to first gain an understanding of who commits burglaries and why.

The majority of burglaries occur during the daytime while homeowners are away at work or on vacation. Burglaries are most often committed by younger thieves looking for cash, jewelry, and electronics. These items are easy to steal and can quickly be converted into cash. Although home burglaries may seem random they actually involve a selection process. Burglars look for homes that appear unoccupied, offer easy access, have the greatest amount of cover, and allow for an easy escape.

The information found in this "Educational Flyer" offers homeowners tips they can use to help prevent them from becoming a victim of a burglary.

#### "Crime Curb Appeal"

Burglars prowling neighborhoods looking for homes to burglarize are looking for easy targets. Making your home less attractive to potential burglars goes a long way in preventing this crime from occurring. Below are a few tips for homeowners to use.

- If your home is equipped with an alarm system "Advertise It". Lawn signs, window decals, and OLEIS numbers are signs your home is protected.
- Keep exterior landscaping short and trimmed. Tall overgrown trees and bushes offer thieves a place to hide.
- Don't "Tempt a Thief". Unattended lawn mowers, snow blowers, bicycles, etc. quickly catch their attention.
- Keep garage and shed doors closed. Unattended open garages and sheds encourage thieves to come on your property to see what they can steal.
- Never leave ladders and scaffolding around your home when not in use. Thieves will take advantage and use these items to help them gain entry to your home.
- Use window coverings such as sheers, drapes, mini blinds, etc. to obscure a potential thief's view of items in your home.
- If you have a dog, post "Beware of Dog" signs in the front and rear of your home.
- If your neighborhood has an active Neighborhood Watch, advertise it.

### **Burglary Prevention Tips**

- Make your home look occupied at all times.
- Lock all doors and windows before leaving or going to bed.
- Install exterior lighting such as motion, regular, and up lighting.
- Don't allow mail and newspapers to build up.
- If you will be traveling, make arrangements to have your lawn cut, snow shoveled, and packages collected.
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes, etc.
- Solid core doors or metal doors are best for exterior applications.
- Use "Deadbolt" locks on exterior doors. Exterior doors with glass should have a double cylinder lock (key on both sides).
- Using a wooden dowel or bar can prevent sliding glass doors from being forced open.
- Installing metal pins or a nail in wooden windows just above the top of the bottom sash prevents a thief from forcing your windows open.
- Window air conditioners should be secured in place so burglars can't pull them out or push them in.
- Inexpensive trinkets placed on the top of the bottom sash (where the two windows meet) will fall when the window is forced open. This noise will often scare off intruders and alert homeowners someone is there.
- Use digital timers to turn interior and exterior lights on and off.

### **Remember the 3 L's of Burglary Prevention**

**Light** up your residence, **Lock** doors and windows when away, and if you see any suspicious activities or individuals call the **Law!**

The MOST important and easy step neighbors can do when it comes to stopping crime is to call 911. Neighbors must be the "Eyes and Ears" for their community. When neighbors unite and watch out for one another the entire community benefits from their efforts. If you see suspicious activity or individuals, call 911 immediately. This information is vital to the Syracuse Police Department as they strive to work with residents to build safer neighborhoods.

### **Tips to Trick a Thief**

The following tips can help make your home less desirable to potential thieves.

- Imitation alarm system lawn signs and window decals placed in highly visible areas leads a potential thief to believe you have an alarm system.
- A "Beware of Dog" sign, dog chain, or dog dish left in plain sight gives the illusion you have a dog.
- If you have a second vehicle, park it in the driveway.