

WHEN LEAVING HOME FOR SEVERAL DAYS

HAVE SOMEONE CHECK YOUR HOME PERIODICALLY – DAILY IS BEST

- Inform police about dates of absence and how to contact you; they will check on your house periodically; Our Substation 3 Police are very glad to monitor.
- Tell your adjacent neighbor about when you will be away, so that they can watch with greater vigilance and check all around the house periodically.
- Leave a key and out-of-town contact information with a friend; tell your adjacent neighbor or block captain, who has key and out-of-town information.
- Have the friend with the key and out-of-town contact information check the outside and inside of your house periodically, if not daily.
- In addition to timers for lights & radio/tv; have friend alter the drapes during check.
- Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.

MAKE HOME APPEAR AS IF FOLKS ARE AT HOME

- Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day. Daily check for additional delivered papers, circulars.
- Exterior lights that stay on at night and during the day indicate no one is home; Reset exterior lights to turn off at daylight or a friend with key could turn outside lights on each evening and off each morning.
- Lights with motion detectors can shine on entry doors & sliding glass doors.
- Have the drapes periodically opened and closed; and have different lights turned on and off so the house appears occupied.
- Leave drapes and shades slightly open to permit neighbors or police to view intruder activity inside the house.
- Arrange for regular lawn care—cut grass; water lawn, garden.
- Leave a car in the driveway, or ask neighbors to park in your driveway, so that a car's activity mimics an owner's normal behavior.
- Ask your neighbor to put some trash in your trash cans.

USE TIMER TO TURN LIGHTS & RADIO/TV ON & OFF

(even if it's daytime & you are out for just a few hours)

- Use a timer or photo electric cell that automatically turns lights and a radio/tv on and off at appropriate times; Have several that operate at different times.
- At dusk, it is helpful for one or more lights to turn on, every day.
- Reduce volume on telephone & answering machine; should not be heard outside.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH – When Leaving Home for Several Days

CONCEAL AND IDENTIFY VALUABLE ITEMS

- Store all your valuables; in unlikely places, with a neighbor, in a safety deposit box. (Burglars may use a metal detector for jewelry & silver or check between the mattresses)
- Mark all electronic items, TV, stereo, computer, camera, with a unique number or code that police can send nationwide to identify your stolen items. Use an electric pen for metal items; use a permanent marker for other items.
- Record the make and serial number of all valuable items; include a photograph or video for accurate identification.
- Remove yard furniture, lawn implements, tools, and esp. ladders to secure area.

Despite precautions, if intruders are determined to enter and burglarize your home, they can probably do so. However, burglars usually seek the easiest target—and you can take steps to make your house less vulnerable.

From NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: A Manual for Citizens and for Law Enforcement. National Sheriffs' Association. 35 pp. See www.usaonwatch.org/pdfs/watchmanual.pdf