

Neighborhood Safety Newsletter



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY - PARTNERSHIPS - PROFESSIONALISM - PREVENTION & INTERVENTION
OWNERSHIP

Personal and Home Safety

May is "Personal and Home Safety" month in the Sacramento Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Series. Whether you are at home or traveling around town, your safety is of the utmost importance. The following are some safety tips to minimize the potential that you will become a victim of crime.

Personal/Home Safety Tips

Always remain aware of your surroundings.

- For example, when leaving the grocery store, make sure you are not distracted (such as by texting) and put your money away prior to leaving. Walk with your keys out and pay attention as you get in your vehicle.
- When you get into your vehicle, immediately lock your doors and leave the area.
- If you think you are being followed while driving, don't go home. Call 911 and find a well-lit public place to meet the police.
- Keep your wallet in your front pocket if possible. If a suspect demands it, it's not worth your life - give up the wallet/money.
- Don't put your wallet on the counter at the store; put it back in your pocket or purse.
- Always listen to your instincts.
- Stay in well-lit, well-traveled areas.

Get to know your neighbors:

- Have your neighbors watch your home when you are away, and have their contact information.
- If you know your neighbors, you will know when something/someone is out of place and how to contact your neighbors and/or police.

Safely answer your door:

- If you do not know the person at your door, you do not have to open it. Yell out to let them know someone is home because if you don't answer at all, they may attempt to force entry.
- Use your door viewer/peephole before you open the door.
- If you do decide to let someone in, request identification from them.
- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, take the time to write down the description and/or license plate in case you need to call the police to report it.

"Hardening" your home (making your home the least likely criminal target):

- Always lock your doors and windows, including your bathroom window and second story windows.
- Use security or deadbolt locks on doors.
- Put a padlock on your utility box. (Criminals will sometimes shut off your power.)
- Lock and pin your sliding glass doors/windows.
- Don't hide keys outside, period.
- Trim shrubbery no higher than 3 feet and trees no lower than 6 feet tall.
- Install exterior lighting, at the front and rear of your home, and near doorways. Consider motion sensor lighting.
- Leave your radio/television on for noise when you are away.
- Consider home/vehicle alarms.
- Put up alarm / "beware of dog" / Neighborhood Watch signs in visible areas.
- Consider using timers on your lights so they come on at dusk and it appears someone is home. You also come home to a well-lit house.

Garage/Yard Safety Tips

When you arrive home:

- Park in the garage if you can.
- If you pull into your garage, check your mirrors before exiting your vehicle to ensure no one has slipped into your garage.
- Do not unload items from your garage until the door is closed.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked even if you are home.
- Light your driveway.

If you must park in the driveway/on the street;

- Be aware of individuals on foot in the area; visually check the area prior to exiting your vehicle.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle; but if you must leave something, make sure it is out of sight.

See our [Personal and Home Safety Video](#) and be safe out there! Help us in "Making Sacramento the Safest Big City in California."

