

# Do-It-Yourself Home Safety



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NOTES:

## **Home Security**

Burglars usually avoid light, noise, being seen, and buildings that take too much time to break into. With a little effort you can make them avoid your home or business and go elsewhere for easier targets. The following suggestions improve the security of your home. (Renters should always talk to landlords before making changes.)

## **Landscaping**

Shrubs, trees, and fences that give you privacy also give burglars a place to hide. Prune Bushes down to two feet and cut tree branches so they aren't hanging lower than six feet from the ground. Use plants with thorns as attractive barriers, especially near windows.

This is often difficult for people to do because they like large trees for privacy. But burglars like privacy, too, when they are at work. Below are a few examples.

**Good**



**Not Good**



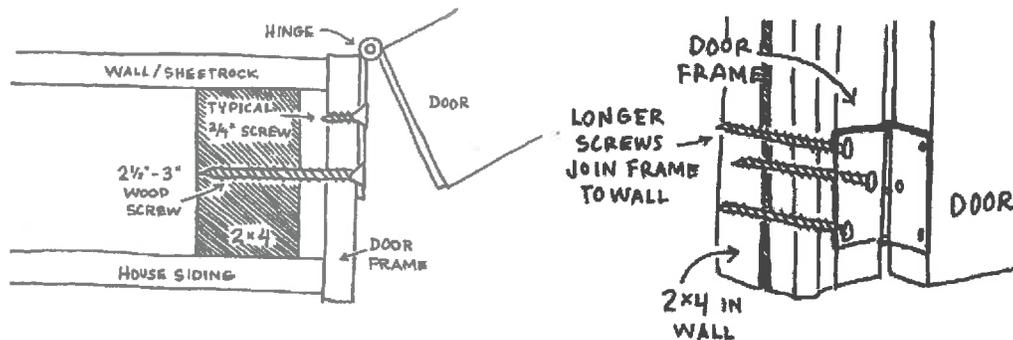
## House Numbers

Make sure house numbers are large and well lit at night so emergency services can find it quickly. Also consider painting your house number on the curb directly in front of your residence.



## Exterior Doors

- Exterior doors should be solid core or steel, which provides better security and insulation. Hollow doors are easy to punch or cut a hole in to reach the lock inside.
- Reinforce the hinges, frame, and doorstop strip with 3" to 4" wood screws. The door frame is strengthened when the screws go into the 2 x 4 wall stud. Without this reinforcement, pry bars can push the door and frame apart or break the frame altogether.
- Glass panels in (or next to) exterior doors provide a way for burglars to reach the lock inside. Replace these with break-resistant glass or apply security film. Bars and grillwork are best installed on the inside of the glass. For fire safety, use an inside release mechanism so they can be removed during an emergency.



- Exterior doors should open inward so hinges are inside. Most hinges have removable pins so the door can be removed. If a door opens outward, make sure exposed hinges are secure. Use non-removable, commercially-pinned hinges.
- Install peepholes (at least 180°) at a height suitable for all family members.
- Double doors of any kind should have one door braced with a recessed cane bolt (below right). Install a deadbolt lock in the other door.
- Storm doors and screen doors offer little protection even when locked. A screen can be slit to reach the lock inside. If the screen is at the bottom of the door, install a strong hook and eye (below left) at the upper corner of the door to keep it from opening even when unlocked.



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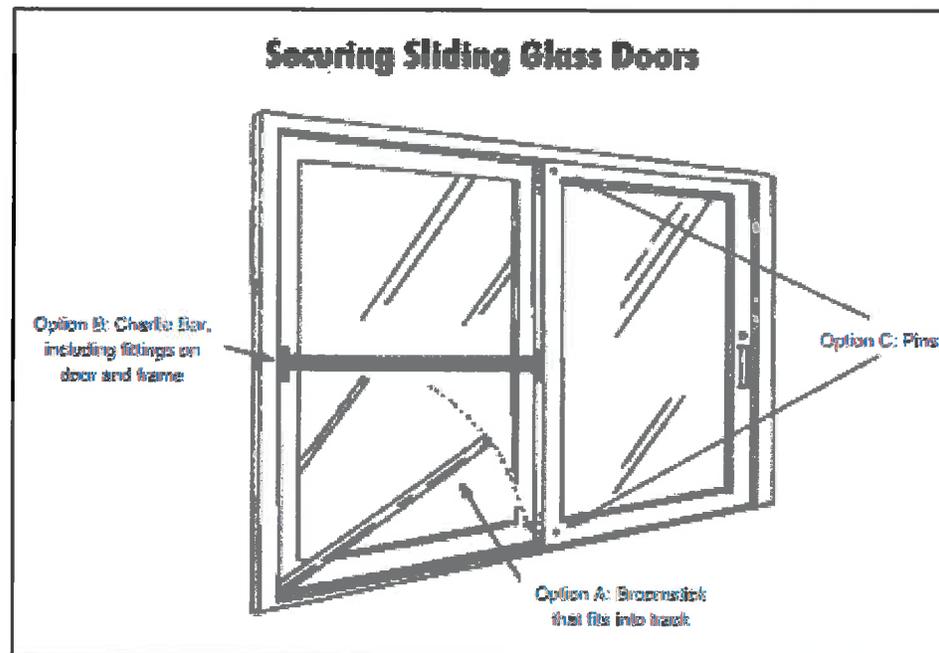


## Windows

Once exterior doors are stronger, burglars may try to enter through a window so it's important to replace thin glass with glass that resists breaking.

Protective film is available to make windows stronger and harder to get through. It is thin and clear, but when applied to the inside, it holds the glass firmly together if broken. This is especially important when glass is near an entry door. It also provides security and safety when used on sliding glass doors. Ask window and glass dealers about the various thickness of security film.

Window locks are often lightweight and may need additional security devices installed. Pins and special locks are some of the choices.



All glass sliding windows and doors should have secondary locking systems. In addition to the lightweight latch or lock, there should be a second way to lock it. Dowels, strong sticks or boards, charley bars, and other locking devices help prevent being forced open.

If the window or door frame can be drilled (without damaging the thermal seal or glass), a pin set into the drilled hole will prevent opening. For fire safety, never put a pin at the top of the window. Be aware that as sliding door frames wear over time, holes may not line up and pins may no longer fit.

Old windows and sliding glass doors (pre 1990) can be lifted out of the lower track at any position. Place flat headed screws in the upper track to prevent this, except when the window or door is almost fully open.

Basement windows are usually easy to break. The best idea is to install bars or grills on the inside, but make sure they are easily released in case of fire.

## Garages

Keep garages locked at all times. The entrance door between a garage and house should be metal or solid core with a deadbolt lock and it should remain locked.



Most garage door locks should be replaced with better grade locks. Double garage doors that are side-hinged can be made more secure by installing cane bolts (pictured above).

If you have an overhead garage door, increase security by drilling a hole in one of the tracks and placing a hook or other device in the hole to stop the door from opening while you are home.

Consider installing an electric garage door opener. They are not only convenient, but add a degree of security for the person coming home. When properly locked they are not easily broken into. The arms and linkage on the door act as a barrier to forced entry.

It's best to purchase a dual-frequency remote garage door opener. Garage door openers may open "on their own" from a stray signal. Buy a unit that filters unwanted signals and disconnects the power to the opener when away from home for a long period of time. It is important, though, to remove the remote opener from your vehicle, especially when you aren't at home. A stolen opener and registration and/or knowledge of where you live can easily lead to a residential burglary.

Burglars in your garage can get to tools and ladders and can often work on your home undetected. Consider adding the garage to your alarm system.

## Lighting

Security lights are one of the most practical ways to prevent crime around your home or office. Criminals often look for areas that are dark or have little lighting; they don't want to be seen for obvious reasons. Lighting in the back is just as important as in front.

Outdoor security lights should be directed downward and shielded. Medium intensity lighting is best for outdoor vision, but avoids lights with glare so objects can be seen clearly. If people can describe a burglar well, it will help police. Test the lighting and make sure you can see a person no matter the time of day, what they are wearing, and what they look like. Position security lights out of arm's reach so they can't be destroyed by intruders.

Halogen or incandescent lights are good choices for motion detectors. Motion detector lighting does just that; when motion is detected, the lights come on. There's a wide range of lights and detection paths (how far the detection sensors reach).

Fluorescent, compact fluorescent, and LED lighting cost much less to use because they use less energy.

## Locks

Good locks are the first line of defense against intruders. They are a deterrent because burglars choose the easiest places to break into and avoid those that take longer.



**Key-in-the-Knob Locks**—and chain locks—offer little or no security. Extra force on the knob (where the cylinder is located) can defeat the lock. They are usually not pick-resistant and keys can be duplicated easily.



**Deadbolt Locks** get their name from the fact that it does not move (is 'dead') except with a key or thumb turn. It cannot be moved with a credit card or tool because it has no spring. You can't lock a deadbolt and pull the door shut. You must turn the key to lock it after shutting the door.

There are three types of deadbolt locks are:

- Single cylinder (key on outside, thumb turn on in-



- Double cylinder (keys on inside and outside)

Double cylinder with captive cylinder (key outside, special thumb turn key inside)



Burglars can break glass near a doorknob to reach inside and unlock a single cylinder deadbolt using the thumb turn. One solution is the captive cylinder deadbolt which was developed for this reason. It is locked by a key on the outside. It is locked by a thumb turn that is also a removable key on the inside. The thumb turnkey can only be removed when the outside key is turned to a certain position. So, the thumb turn stays in place when people are inside. When the home is empty, the thumb turnkey can be removed and a burglar can't unlock the door by reaching inside. Children can't remove the thumb turnkey as they could a normal key.

Double cylinder deadbolts are not commonly used any longer and certainly should not be

used on entry doors. The door can be locked from the inside and the key removed, but this can be deadly if people can't escape from a fire because they can't find the key.

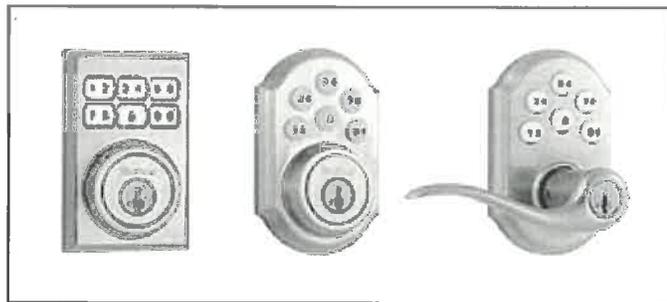
When selecting a deadbolt lock:

- The bolt should be at least 1" when fully extended and some of it should still be in the lock for strength at that end.
- The outside collar (around the cylinder where the key goes in) should be strong metal, not easily crushed or ripped open. If the collar rotates freely it keeps the cylinder from being twisted off.
- A strong strike plate should be attached to the door frame to provide a strong anchor for the bolt to sit in.
- Extended strike plates provide a stronger foundation for a good deadbolt.
- Use 3" to 4" wood screws when installing a strike plate that extends through the door frame and into the wall stud. Do not use drywall screws.

## Keyless Locks

There are many variations of keyless locks available for homes, garages, and businesses.

They offer combination buttons, electronic, or digital means of unlocking the door.



## Gun Locks/Safe

Stolen guns can lead to danger in communities. There are gun safes, locking gun cabinets, and locks for individual guns. The Orinda Police Department provides free gun locks at the police station.



Guns can't discriminate between criminals and innocent bystanders.

Studies have shown that unintentional shootings are four times as common as occurrences of gun use in legitimate home defense situations. Having a gun in the house also increases your own chances of becoming the victim of a firearm-related homicide or suicide in the home. Finally, if you have children, you should take into account how the presence of a firearm in the home might affect their safety.



# Alarms

An alarm system is another way to deter burglars. They come in a wide range of choices so compare quotes and information from several companies.



The simplest form is the inexpensive, self-contained units designed for a single door or window (pictured left). They alert someone who is at home.

For whole-house alarm systems, choices include silent and audible alarms.

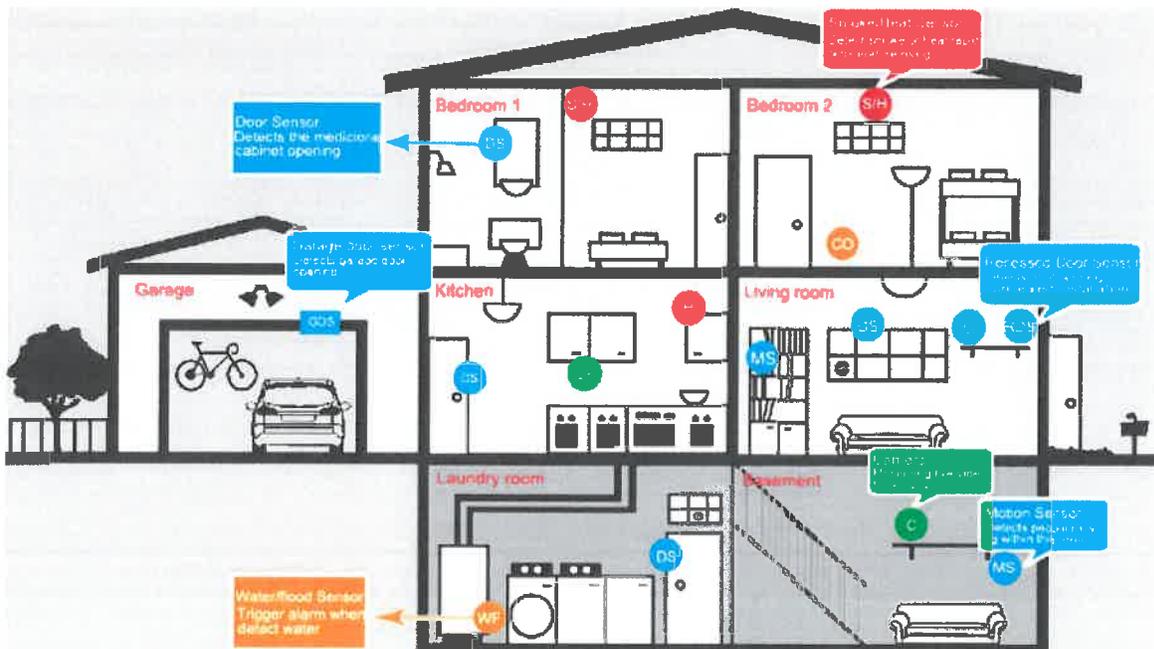
Silent alarms “ring” into a central monitoring station. The monitoring station calls the home or business to see if it’s a false alarm or real emergency, then calls 9-1-1 if needed. There’s usually a code you give the alarm company to prove you’re not an intruder.

An audible alarm sounds inside and/or outside the home to alert neighbors that there’s an intruder and to make the burglar leave. This alarm may alert a central monitoring station.

To protect the outside border of the house, wire or tape is attached to windows and doors. The alarm is triggered if someone breaks the wire or tape.

To protect the inside of the house, sensors are alerted when there is movement. Pets, curtains near open windows, and helium balloons can cause false alarms. False alarms waste valuable time and keep police from real emergencies.

A panic button can be part of an alarm system; if pressed, the monitoring station will contact 9-1-1.



### Questions to ask an alarm company:

- Is the firm established with a history of performance and service?
- Does the company have insurance to cover damages caused during installation?
- Are the company and installers properly licensed and bonded? Is anything subcontracted?
- Is the alarm company a member of a burglary and fire alarm association?
- Will they provide a list of customer references?
- What happens during a power outage? Does the system have a battery back-up and is it rechargeable?
- Does the company offer a contract and written guarantee? What is guaranteed and for how long? What is the equipment repair policy? What service charges occur after the warranty expires?
- What services are offered (maintenance contract, central station monitoring, 24 hour repair service)?
- What equipment is leased or owned?
- What is the policy on false alarm billings?
- What is the contract length and can I change my mind once I sign it?
- Explain what happens if my alarm goes off when I am home and when nobody is at home.
- How many alternate names or numbers can I give the monitoring company if they can't reach me?
- For businesses, does the system have a robbery/duress mode during business hours?



## Calling 9-1-1

Dial 911 if you need an immediate emergency response from police, fire, or medics. Report all suspicious activity – we would rather respond to something that ends up not being serious than not being called when you really need us. Trust your gut instinct. You know your neighborhood and community better than anyone—if the slightest thing makes you wonder if you should call 911, then the answer is always yes.

**1. Stay on the phone.**

Even if you dial the number by accident, hanging up the phone could be a signal of distress. It's better to stay on the line to confirm that there is not an emergency.

**2. Be certain to tell the person answering your call which city you are calling from and/or if you want to speak a language other than English.**

Cell phone calls are directed based on the closest cell tower for your provider. Simply tell them which city you are calling for. Do not go into details until you're connected with the correct agency. Same thing goes for different languages—dispatch centers have access to a language line that can help interpret, so tell the dispatcher immediately which language you speak.

**3. Be patient.**

If you hear silence, it does not mean the dispatcher has hung up. They are entering information into the computer, assigning an officer to your emergency, and relaying correct information to that officer. Do not get frustrated if they interrupt you, it is normally with good reason so they can quickly identify the emergency. Once an officer is dispatched and receives pertinent information, then the dispatcher may go back and ask for more details. They can stay on the phone with you until an officer arrives.

**4. Observe and report.**

When you see people being harmed, a natural reaction is to help. However, you never want to jeopardize your safety or delay police response. Instead, observe and report, call 911, and allow an officer to respond. While this may seem selfish, you are expediting the time and efficiency for police response.

**5. Give specifics.**

When describing a vehicle, include as many details as possible: Color, make, model, license plate number, number of doors, and direction of travel. When describing people, include: How many people are involved, race, sex, height, weight, clothing, hair color, facial hair, eyeglasses, hat, tattoos, piercings, scars, weapons displayed, and where the person went. The dispatcher will prompt you with these questions. The more information you provide the better. In contrast, saying there was a male about 6' 0" and medium build doesn't narrow it down much.

**6. Remain calm.**

This is easier said than done. Anxiety is high during an emergency, but remember that remaining calm helps you and those in danger.

## **Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. Focusing on organization, communication, and education, Neighborhood Watch participants look out for one another without being nosy or obtrusive. They are observant and report suspicious activity. Participants are never asked to act in lieu of police or put themselves in danger—just observe and report. Nobody knows who belongs in your neighborhood better than the residents who live there.



### **A Good Neighborhood Watch:**

- Emphasizes techniques to reduce the risk of being a crime victim
- Encourages neighbors to know one another
- Teaches citizens to recognize and report suspicious activity.
- Teaches how to make homes more secure
- Allows for communication among neighborhoods and the police department
- Gives residents greater access to criminal activity information
- Gives residents one-on-one interaction with law enforcement
- Provides opportunities for neighbors to address issues as a group
- Participates in National Night Out.
- Has fun!

### **Starting a Neighborhood Watch**

- Form a small planning committee
- Decide on a date and place for an initial neighborhood meeting
- Invite neighbors to attend the meeting using a flyer with meeting information.
- Establish a roster and map for effective communication
- Identify areas of concern in your neighborhood
- Consider linking with an existing organization such as a homeowners association; they may provide an existing infrastructure to use
- Gather facts about crime in your neighborhood by checking police reports and learning residents' perceptions. Often, opinions are not supported by facts and accurate information can reduce the fear of crime
- Contact Police to help organize your meeting and invite them to discuss neighborhood problems and needs with the group

## **Neighborhood Maps**

A neighborhood map is a powerful tool on a simple sheet of paper.

- The map should indicate North, South, East, West.
- Label all streets inside and connecting to the neighborhood.
- Create squares for homes and list full names, address, email address, and phone number (minimum). Create your map any way you want—by hand, computer, spreadsheet, etc. If there's not enough room, fill in the address then list names and numbers on the back. Or simply number the homes starting with "1" and list the contact information on back.
- Consider adding children's names and work and out of state emergency numbers.
- If a household won't participate, list only their address on the map.
- Make note of captain and co-captain(s).
- Give a copy of the map to everyone who participates and your local police department if they need it.

This is how the map works: Imagine that as you drive home you hear a loud noise (a gun?) and see a man run out of a home in your neighborhood. He speeds away in an automobile. You get home, call 9-1-1, and grab your neighborhood map. You're now able to give the exact address of that house, not fumble with "two streets over and 4 or 5 houses down from my address." People can forget their own street when flustered, especially when also trying to remember details.

## **Identify Property**

The ability to identify your property in the event it is stolen is critical to investigations and recovery. To accomplish this task, property owners should:

- 1) Engrave valuables
- 2) Creating an inventory list
- 3) Photographing valuables

Engrave valuables with your California State Driver's License Number preceded by "CA." This allows property to be more easily traced and identified as yours. While marking property, make a list of all valuables (see Property Inventory Record next page). List the brand, model, serial number, date purchased, and value. Should you suffer a major loss, this list is vital because your insurance agent will require the best possible documentation to verify your claim. The inventory also helps police in the attempt to recover lost or stolen property.

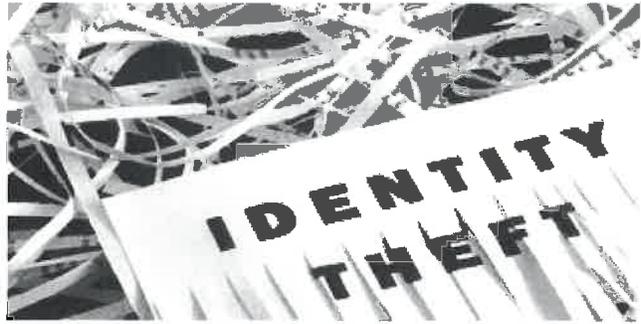
Supplement your inventory list with photographs of items inappropriate for marking, such as art, jewelry, antiques, china, silver, and furs. Then photograph or videotape each room, cupboards, closets, garage, and vehicles in a way that will show all furnishings and accessories. Keep your lists and video in a safe deposit box or someplace where they cannot be stolen or destroyed by fire.



## **Identity Theft**

### **Avoid identity theft:**

- Don't give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, or account numbers to people who contact you by phone, online, mail, or in person. Banks and lending institutions won't contact you and ask for account numbers or personal information; they have them already.
- Don't leave outgoing mail in your mailbox and remove mail when it's delivered.
- Pick up ordered checks at the bank.
- Stop mail delivery during vacations.
- Know when your bills arrive each month and call the creditor as soon as one is late. Thieves change the address on your mail so you can't see account charges.
- Always have updated virus protection on your computer.
- Don't click on a website link in emails that take you to another site. Always type the site into the address bar when you know it's legitimate.
- Don't carry cards you don't need. Debit and credit cards are as risky as carrying cash. You may not know cards are missing if you don't use them often.
- Cut or shred unwanted documents: charge receipts, credit applications, physician statements, bank checks and statements, and credit offers.
- Order a credit report at least once a year from each of the three major consumer reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). The law allows one free copy a year. If reports are not accurate contact the bureau immediately to dispute the claim. You may request to "opt out" of pre-approved lists sold to companies.
- Check financial accounts regularly and report any inaccurate charges immediately.



### **If you are a victim of identity theft**

- Get organized; it can be overwhelming and confusing. Document everything: correspondence, phone calls, names, dates, and transactions.
- This crime is a felony. Ask the police to take a report and request the case number to help correct your credit rating.
- Report identity theft to your bank and to everyone who sends you bills.
- Call credit reporting agencies. Get a "fraud alert" on your file which requires creditors to contact you before opening an account in your name.
- Ask businesses for information about transactions made in your name.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) identity theft hotline or visit their website. The FTC provides information and a uniform ID Theft Affidavit accepted by many businesses.

## **Home Security Checklist**

These are just some steps to decrease the likelihood of being targeted.

### **EXTERIOR DOORS:**

- Doors are solid, have deadbolt locks, and fit their frames snugly.
- Strike plates and hinges have extra-long screws holding them to the wall stud.
- All doors remain locked, especially at night and when leaving the home.
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- Glass panels in or near doors are reinforced so they can't be shattered.

### **GARAGE, SLIDING DOORS, AND WINDOWS:**

- The door leading from the garage to the house is solid and has a quality lock.
- Overhead garage door has a lock in addition to the automatic door opener.
- Garage doors are locked at all times.
- The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.
- A dowel to secure a glass door is installed to prevent it from being opened.
- The sliding door is locked every night and when leaving the house.
- All windows have working locks or are securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked, even when opened a few inches for ventilation.
- Screens and storm windows are attached to the frame or building.

### **OUTDOOR SECURITY**

- Tools and ladders are stored so burglars cannot use them to break in.
- There are no dark areas around the house, garage, or yard at night.
- Shrubs and trees are trimmed so a person can't hide behind them.
- Outside doors have a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- House numbers are clearly displayed and illuminated at night for emergency services.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked with high-security padlocks.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are either stored in a locked garage or shed, or hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Bicycles are secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- All automobiles have valuables removed from them and are locked.

### **INDOOR SECURITY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:**

- Firearms are stored unloaded in a locked storage boxes with secured trigger locks.
- Valuables are engraved or marked with your driver's license number.
- A list of serial numbers and pictures of valuables is stored in a safe place.
- An alarm system is used and everyone at home knows the code.
- Doors are locked even when you are at home.
- Do not store jewelry in the master bedroom; be creative, use a bank safe deposit box or heavy safe bolted to the floor.

### **SECURITY WHEN AWAY FROM HOME**

- Someone stays at your house when gone for an extended period of time.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries are stopped.

- Someone tends to your yard and your home when you're away for extended periods.
- A trusted neighbor has a key.
- At least two light timers are set to turn lights on and off in a logical sequence.
- The motion detector or other alarm system is activated when leaving home.
- A radio or TV plays while you are gone.

## **Personal Safety for Children**

For the safety and well-being of children, parents should take every opportunity to talk with them about safety and to maintain an open line of communication should they ever need to discuss a serious situation. Below is a list of some topics children and parents should know.

- Keep children in the back seat of automobiles if under 13 years old.
- Don't leave children unattended, even for a minute.
- Use child safety seats and booster seats until children reach appropriate weight limits.
- Check background and references of babysitters thoroughly.
- Talk about sexual assault so they understand what it is and that it's okay to talk to you or another trusted adult.
- Play the "what if?" game with children; learn how they think and teach them how to respond in specific situations.
- Teach them to walk with confidence so they aren't an easy target
- Never go anywhere alone—always have a buddy. Bad things are less likely to happen.
- Find a safe neighbor and talk to them (with your child present) about what it means to be a safe neighbor.
- Ask "Who will be there? Will there be adults? What will you be doing?"

## **TEACH CHILDREN**

- Their 10 digit phone number, address, and other important names and phone numbers.
- Never open the door when grownups are not home, but talk through the door to let the person know that the home is occupied. Have children tell them that their parents are in the bathroom or something similar—if nobody answers the door a criminal may try to break in.
- What to say if they answer the phone (alone or not).
- What to do if lost in a store, the mall, the park, or on the street.
- What to say to 9-1-1 (practice only on a toy phone).
- There are no secrets! They should tell a trusted adult even if told to keep a secret or if threatened.
- Their first and last names and their parents' first and last names.
- How to observe and report suspicious actions—call 911 if there is an emergency or tell a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right. .
- That it's okay to yell and fight if someone grabs them—practice!
- To fasten helmets tightly and obey the rule, "no helmet, no bike."
- Home and fire safety, how to escape danger, who to call for help.
- How to swim, stay afloat, not panic, and wear life jackets.

## **Personal Safety for Adults**

Many crimes are easy to avoid, but it takes personal responsibility and making wise decisions. These tips should be practiced in your home, at work, and while traveling.

- Pay attention to your instincts and don't hesitate to react.
- Look around, make eye contact, and walk confidently so you don't look like a victim.
- Have keys ready as you walk to your automobile or house.
- Avoid going places alone, especially in the dark or secluded areas.
- If being followed immediately go where people are around.
- If you want to carry a weapon, get training, learn the laws, and practice often.
- If you want to carry pepper spray, buy two and practice. Replace it regularly.
- Keep automobile doors and house doors locked at all times—even when you are inside.
- Be wary of strangers approaching you for help in parking lots.
- Know your natural weapons: voice, teeth, fingernails, feet, elbows, and head, and know how to use them: yell, bite, pinch, stomp, kick, poke, and dig into skin.
- Know your handy weapons: keys, ink pens, bags, backpacks, purses.
- Know vulnerable areas to attack: eyes, shins, feet, ears, hair, and nose.
- If asked, never give personal or account information over the phone, internet, or to a Solicitor unless you have contacted the business and know it's legitimate.
- Never enter a home or automobile that has been broken into. Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Walk facing traffic so you can see automobiles approaching.
- Never assume you are safe in a crosswalk. Walk—and look—as you cross.
- Be alert at ATM machines, demand that people stay behind you.
- For lost or stolen identification, checks, mail, or credit cards report it to police.
- Check your credit record at least once a year and correct errors right away.
- Avoid unlit parking areas and always check inside your automobile before opening it.
- Never leave purses, backpacks, valuables, or electronics unattended.
- Make copies of cards in your wallet, front and back, and keep stored in a safe place.
- Don't overload yourself with bags and packages leaving a store.
- Observe and report suspicious activities. Do NOT get involved, just be a good witness.



## Cameras

### Benefits of Home Security Cameras:

- **Keeping the bad guys away:** Potential thieves will typically case a home before robbing it. They will also try to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. Home security cameras will likely make them change their minds.
- **Helps the police:** As well as being a deterrent, the video/pictures play a critical role in helping the police develop leads and finding those responsible. Be sure to have a good quality camera that captures faces and license plates accurately.
- **Watches the home when you are away:** Most cameras today allow you to monitor in real time to ensure your property is safe.
- **Interior Cameras:** There are many types of interior cameras that connect to your home Wi-Fi allowing you to monitor the inside of your home while you are away.
- **Door Bell Camera:** Doorbell cameras are a fantastic tool that allows you to be aware of who is at your door before opening the door. They also allow to you talk through the device instead of opening the door to have a conversations. Additionally, the cameras will record any motion or movement near the front door. This is a great tool to combat package thefts and mail thefts.



## Fire Safety for Everyone

- Have a smoke detector on every level of the house and in or near sleep areas.
- The life span of a smoke detector is about 10 years; mark the date of purchase.
- Change batteries twice a year when you change clocks for daylight savings.
- Test the smoke detector once a month; vacuum the dust from it once a year.
- Do not remove batteries if it keeps going off. Move it to a different location.
- Test smoke detectors with children present so they know the sound, are less likely to sleep through it, and should know to leave immediately when they hear it.
- If you keep bedroom doors shut at night, then test the alarm that way.
- Show them how to check the door for heat and seek another exit if the door is hot.
- Teach them to crawl if there is smoke and to stop, drop, and roll if on fire.
- When you are together, draw a floor plan of the house and make an escape plan.
- Let your children help design floor plans, escape routes, and a meeting place outside the house.
- Practice so everyone will remember what to do?
- NEVER go back into a burning building, even if your pet is inside.
- Have at least one collapsible ladder if you have a two-story house.
- Don't burn papers or trash in the fireplace.
- Make sure ashes are cold before removing from fireplace.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that will burn.
- Don't burn candles in the bedroom.
- In a public building always look for the exit signs.
- When cooking, turn pot handles so they are out of reach of children.
- Never store or use gasoline inside a house or garage.
- Have several fire extinguishers in the house and garage and check the gauges often.
- Keep an all-purpose extinguisher in the kitchen for grease and electrical fires.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside each bedroom and on each level of the home.



**Nixle** is a Community Information Service built exclusively for secure and reliable communications. Until now, there has never been an authenticated and secure service that connects municipal agencies and community organizations to their residents in real-time, with the same ease and in the same way that current services such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter provide users with an unauthenticated platform for connections. Nixle solves this problem by providing ONE standardized service for consumers to receive immediate and credible neighborhood-level public safety and community information, via SMS, email, or web. Sign up at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)



**CrimeReports.com** is an online mapping and analysis service provided by Public Engines, Inc. CrimeReports.com combines the value of police data with the ease-of-use of Google-based mapping



and an analytics module so that members of the public can view police data in a high-impact map or summary descriptive format. Members of the public may also sign up to receive free email alerts based on user-defined parameters (e.g., geography, crime types, frequency, etc.). Data from CrimeReports.com can be reviewed and used to improve community safety. CrimeReports.com data is appropriate to consider and discuss as part of coordinated crime prevention initiatives. Members of the community are encouraged to continue partnering and problem-solving with the Orinda Police while using CrimeReports.com data toward shared police-community goals. To view the crime reports map visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

**Orindatip@CityofOrinda.org** – Email crime tips or anything you believe suspicious to the Orinda Police Department at [Orindatip@CityofOrinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@CityofOrinda.org). This is just an advisory message and will not generate an official dispatch or create a dispatch record.