

# Tips on Crime Prevention from your Police Department



Crime Prevention and suppression cannot be the sole responsibility of the Police Department. It is critical that each individual resident and business owner take steps to assist in the prevention of criminal behavior/activity.

Many crimes occur when persons with criminal intent are presented with the **OPPORTUNITY** to realize their goals. The Crime Prevention process is intended to remove or lessen this **opportunity**. The Police Department contributes to this effort by visible and vigilant patrol, but this alone will not eliminate criminal activity.

There are four principles of residential security that if applied, will dramatically reduce your chances of becoming a victim. The four principles can be described as the four D's - **Deter, Delay, Deny, and Detect**.



**DETER** is the core element of opportunity. This involves several techniques mainly targeted toward the exterior of the residence. These are designed to make your home a 'risky' target. These include lighting, signs, and your immediate environment in general and the most important being community involvement in calling the police when something suspicious is seen. The sooner the police are called, the sooner the suspicious or criminal activity can be investigated and addressed.

**DELAYING** the criminal. Make it hard for a criminal to break in. The longer it takes for a burglar to break into your home the more chance the criminal has of being caught, and the burglar knows this. If a resident can delay the criminal's entrance for at least four to five minutes, it is generally sufficient to prevent entry. These tactics include door and window locks designed to resist entry.

Criminals are looking for easy, quiet and timely entry. If the burglar is neither deterred nor delayed then to **DENY** the criminal access to your valuables is the next consideration. These strategies include marking household property, using a safe, and keeping inventories and disbursement of valuables.

Finally, **DETECTING** the criminal is obviously an important piece of the puzzle. Detection involves devices such as alarms, neighborhood watch, and even dogs.