

Obstacles to Personal Safety

- Attitude of Complacency
 - It can't happen to me.
 - Nothing like this happens in my neighborhood.
 - If it's going to happen, it's going to happen.
 - A criminal attack against you or your family can take place anywhere, as can fire or other disaster.
 - YOU CAN influence what happens to you by assuming more responsibility for your own security.
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Steps to Prevention

- Is your address clearly visible from the street during the day and night?
 - Necessary for proper response of police and fire personnel.
- Remove hiding places:
 - Shrubs and/or bushes cut to the lower edge of windows
 - Trees cut 6 to 7 feet above ground
- Is the property well maintained?
 - Appears that you care what happens here
- Lighting; Interior and Exterior
 - Continuous -vs- motion sensor
 - Out of reach from the ground
 - Timers while away
- Get rid of "Hidden" keys
 - Better left with a trusted neighbor
 - Sealed envelope
- Secured openings (windows & doors)
 - Able to open only a specific amount
 - Equipped with quality locks
 - Doors locked while you are home
- Alarms
 - Alarm signs clearly visible
- Pets: BEWARE OF DOG
 - Even if you don't have one
- Corded phone
 - Cordless won't work in a power outage
- Vary daily routines
- Know where family members are at all times.
- Know your neighbors. Develop a rapport with them and offer to keep an eye on each other's property.
 - Retrieve each others mail
 - Allow them to use your driveway while you're away
- If you observe suspicious activity, ***report it immediately*** to your local police. Detail as much information as possible.
 - Be the best witness possible
 - Don't take action on your own

When You Go Away

- Make sure light bulbs will last while away. Change them if necessary.
- Make arrangements to have your mail / newspapers collected.
- Leave contact information with a neighbor.
- Unplug all unnecessary appliances such as televisions, stereos, computers.
- Mow your lawn just before leaving. Make arrangements to have it mowed during extended absence.
- In the winter, make arrangements to have someone shovel sidewalks if it snows. At a minimum, have a neighbor walk from the street to your door several times.
 - **Maintain lived-in appearance**
- If you use an answering machine, turn off the ringer on the phone. If you don't have an answering machine, unplug or turn off ringers on all phones. No RING, RING, RING
- Leave a radio on within the residence.

Other tips:

- Make sure all personal and home insurance policies are up-to-date and you have adequate coverage.
- Be alert to changes within your own neighborhood.
- Meet and know your neighbors.
- Report suspicious activity IMMEDIATELY

Members of the Seven Hills Police Department continually strive to make the protection of our citizens and their property a top priority. To further this cause, we rely on the people of this great community to be vigilant to the activities within their neighborhoods. Obviously, this includes keeping an eye out for your neighbors and taking the necessary steps to secure your belongings, ie., the appropriate use of lighting, locking your car doors / homes, and notifying the police department in the event that you observe suspicious activity.

Residential Security

