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Burglary Prevention

Officer W. Furman

For those that have been reading the email updates you are aware of the increase in burglaries recently. According to FBI statistics a burglary occurs somewhere in the U.S. every 15.4 seconds. The largest percentage of burglaries occur during the daytime when everyone is at work or school. Most burglaries are committed by young males looking for small, valuable electronics, jewelry and cash. The recent burglars in Dunwoody have focused on flat screen televisions and are in and out of the home in less than 3 minutes.

The only way to prevent these burglaries and catch the perpetrators is through teamwork between the citizens and police. One important way citizens can assist us is by giving the burglars a hard target. I want to take some time to share a few tips for increasing the security of your home.

Doors

1. Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points .
2. Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt.
3. Use a quality, heavy-duty, knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism.
4. Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame.

Windows

Windows are left unlocked and open at a much higher rate than doors. Ground floor windows are more susceptible to break-ins for obvious reasons.

1. Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices.
2. Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation.
3. Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window and unlock the door.
4. Make sure someone cannot reach inside the window and remove the blocking device.
5. Use anti-lift devices to prevent window from being lifted out.
6. Use crime prevention or alarm decals on ground accessible windows.
7. Always keep blinds and curtains closed on main levels.

Alarm Systems

Alarm systems definitely have a place in burglary prevention. In order for a system to be effective follow these tips.

1. Alarm systems are effective deterrents with visible signage.
2. Alarm systems to be properly installed, programmed, and maintained.
3. Alarm systems need to have an audible horn or bell to be effective.
4. Make sure your alarm response call list is up to date.
5. Instruct your neighbor how to respond to an alarm.

Valuables

We always recommend that you photograph your valuables, such as jewelry and electronics and store those pictures in a safe location (such as on a

2007 F.B.I. Stats:

- 2,179,140 burglaries reported, a 0.2% decline
- Dekalb P.D. reported 10,069 burglaries, the highest in the state.
- Burglary of residential properties accounted for 67.9 percent of all burglary offenses.
- 63.6% of residential burglaries occurred during the daytime.
- Burglaries cost victims over \$4.3 billion in lost property. An average of \$1,991 per burglary.

CD or memory stick in a safe deposit box). Photographs are sometimes the only way to recover stolen jewelry since there are no serial numbers on them. You also need to record all makes, models and serial numbers of your electronics and also store them in a secure location (such as on the same CD or memory stick as the photos, stored in a safe deposit box). When electronics and jewelry are stolen, the thieves sometimes try to pawn them. If we have the serial numbers to enter into GCIC the items will show as stolen.

Miscellaneous Tips

1. If you purchase items such as televisions or computers, do not leave the boxes on the curb for trash pickup. Break the boxes down and place them in the trash can.
2. Always keep garage doors closed even when you are at home. Burglars like to drive by and “window shop” to see what valuables you may have.
3. Keep bushes and shrubs around your home trimmed back.

Be A Good Neighbor!

Always be aware of your surroundings. If you see a suspicious vehicle in your neighborhood, call 911 and let an officer check them out. If you see solicitors in the neighborhood without their permit, call 911 and let an officer check them out. Burglars are very fast, and any delay you have in calling 911 could prevent us from catching them. In many of the recent cases, neighbors reported seeing the vehicles but did not call 911. Try to stay on the phone with 911 if you can still see the vehicle/person, so you can provide the responding officers with updates on their movements.

Safety

We should always remember that a burglary is a property crime and not worth a citizen getting hurt or losing their life. Citizens should avoid confronting burglars or attempting to detain them. If you return home and find your door or window open, do not enter the home. Go to a neighbor's house and call 911. A burglar who is caught in the act and trying to escape can be extremely dangerous! When the police arrive, meet with them at the neighbors house and let them clear and secure your home. ☺





SUPPLIES



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6

Home Identification

Officer W. Furman

One of the most frustrating things as a road officer, who is responding to an emergency, is trying to find the street numbers to certain homes. The house numbers are either missing entirely from the home or are obstructed from view by bushes or shrubbery. A common fix to this is painting your street numbers along the curb adjacent to your driveway under the mailbox. In this segment I will attempt to give you a step by step process for doing this yourself.

Supplies:

- 1 can of white and 1 can of black spray paint
- 1 set of stencils (numbers must be at least 4" tall)
- masking tape
- newspaper to mask off curb

The total cost for the materials was less than \$12 from the local Wal-Mart.

STEP 1

Mask off a rectangle that will be approximately 2" longer and 2" wider than the numbers chosen. Use newspaper to mask around the rectangle to protect the curb.

STEP 2

Paint the rectangle with the white spray paint. Two coats or more may be necessary. Be sure to allow each coat to dry.

STEP 3

Remove masking tape and paper and allow the white paint to dry.

STEP 4

Place the stencils on the white rectangle and secure the edges with tape. Be sure to center the numbers within the rectangle. Mask off the surrounding white rectangle and curb to prevent overspray.

STEP 5

Spray over the stencils with the black spray paint. This should only require one coat. Allow paint to dry before removing the tape and stencils.

STEP 6

Remove the stencils and admire your work! The numbers may need to be renewed every few years as in my example.

NOTES: The numbers must be a minimum of 4" tall and have a stroke width of at least .5".

You may also buy a reflective overcoat at most hardware stores now. You would spray the reflective overcoat over the white rectangle and allow it to dry before spraying the black numbers on.

Mark Your Valuables

Officer A. Brooks

A simple idea but a great deterrent. With the sudden increase of burglaries in our community the Dunwoody Police Department would like to remind you to **Mark Your Property**. By placing a personal identifier on your electronics it can assist in the recovery of your valuables and getting them back to you quickly. Marked electronics such as computers, televisions, entertainment systems, etc, are hard for the burglars to sell or pawn because they are now more easily identifiable.



Officer A. Brooks has over 15 years in civilian law enforcement and 12.5 years in the military.

How should the items be marked? They should be marked with an identifying mark. Some people choose to use their initials, their birthday or their Social Security Number. Others may choose to use some numbers or symbols that are unique to them. The important thing is that all items should be marked with the same identifiers, this will eliminate the need to be overly creative and it will also help when your items are found. By being consistent, items taken from the home can be compared to items left at the home for verification.

Where should they be marked? Markings should be made in an inconspicuous area such as on the bottom or the rear of the item. Again, attempt to be consistent in the place you choose so it will be easy to describe its location if needed. You should also keep a list of all your electronics and their serial numbers in a safe place, such as on a piece of paper, a memory stick or etc. Remember if you leave it on the hard drive of your computer and your computer is stolen, then you are restricted to relying on your memory. A simple engraving tool or electronic engraver can be used to accomplish these tasks.

Explorers

Officer W. Furman

The Dunwoody Police Explorers have taken on a new challenge. Starting this month the Explorers will be painting house numbers on the curbs for citizens for a \$20 donation. The Explorers plan to give 50% of all donations received from this to the Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation (<http://www.jajf.org/>).

Despite the advances in research, The American Cancer Society estimates 571,000 Americans died of cancer this past year and sadly expects this figure to remain exceptionally high for years to come. Cancer will claim thousands of Dads and Moms in their 20's, 30's and 40's leaving behind grieving children. The Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation treats families to WOW! Experiences®, giving children who will lose their Mom or Dad to cancer a timeout to create indispensable memories as a family... while they can. As the national Oncology community admits, cancer is a diagnosis attacking the entire family. The Foundation flies in the face of Late Stage Cancer with smiles, joy, and a return to normalcy for these families.

The Explorers will be painting the numbers on Saturdays from now through the spring of 2010. They plan to present a check to the Foundation in the spring of 2010.

If you would like to have your house numbers painted or just make a donation, please contact Officer Furman at (678) 382-6913.

(The citizens making the request will need to determine if this is within the covenants of their neighborhood.)



Jack & Jill
Late Stage Cancer
FOUNDATION™



Memories become our greatest inheritance.™