

- Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams around.

- For more information on how to start your own NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP — contact your local law enforcement agency or write the Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center for your own Neighborhood Watch Guide.

- **Always** report anything suspicious to police.

Anything that draws your attention to it could be suspicious.

The unknown juvenile sitting at on his/her bicycle in a neighbor's driveway might be suspicious. He may be a lookout.

The suspicious vehicle parked on your street with people sitting in it could be suspicious.

A sudden increase in burglaries and thefts is indicative of someone selling drugs in the area. The house on your street that has frequent parties and traffic at all hours of the night may be the problem.

In most cases where burglaries and theft are occurring in an area, someone has seen something but did not report it. You can always report anything anonymously by calling (805) 486-8362.

In most cases calling police on suspicious activity before anything happens is the key to prevention.

If you have any questions or concerns or you wish to report something, you may also contact the Crime Prevention Unit at the number below. You may leave an e-mail if you wish.

OXNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
251 SOUTH C STREET
OXNARD CALIFORNIA, 93030
805 385-8349
MARTINENNIS@OXNARDPD.ORG.

Home Security

*Crime and Violence Prevention Center •
California Attorney General's Office*



The facts about burglary...

- Criminals committed almost 300,000 burglaries in California in 1997. That's almost one burglary every 2 minutes!

- In nearly half of these burglaries, no force was used. That means the burglars got in through UNLOCKED doors and windows.

Most of these burglaries could be prevented.

- Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for “just a minute.”

- Never leave a house key available: under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of the door.

These are the first places a burglar will look.

If you would like to make life even harder for crooks — remember the following tips:

- Exterior doors should have “dead bolt” locks with a 1 inch strong metal bar extending into the door frame.

- Sliding doors and windows should all have “ventilation” locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.

- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio, or other doors that lead out through storage areas or a spare room.

- For more information on locks, contact your local law enforcement

agency or write for the Attorney General's *Home Security Handbook*.

Going Out?

- Lock all doors and windows.

- Use timers so that lights, radio, and TV go on and off throughout the house to indicate someone is home.

- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and newspaper delivery or have a neighbor collect them daily.

- In short, make your house look “LIVED IN.”

Remember, if you come home and see a broken window or a jimmed door, don't go in.

Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone your local law enforcement agency immediately.

Other Tips

- Install a wide angle lens viewer in the front door. Never open the door without knowing who is there.

- Consider alarm systems.

- Whenever you move to a new home, have the locks changed.

Operation I.D.

Another deterrent to “would be” burglars is *Operation Identification*.

- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number preceded by the letters “CA.” Burglars

don't want marked merchandise because it is difficult to fence and evidence of guilt if they are caught.

- Post Operation I.D. stickers in doors and windows to warn housebreakers to stay away.

- Photograph those items that cannot be engraved (jewelry, silverware, antiques).

- Operation I.D. also facilitates the return of stolen property when it is recovered.

“Don't let them knock your block off!”

Want to know the best crime prevention tool ever invented?

A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

- Law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, but you and your neighbors can. You're the ones who really know what's going on in the neighborhood.

- Put that neighborhood know-how to work. It's simple: just use your eyes and ears — then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police or sheriff immediately.

- Don't try to stop a criminal yourself — it can be dangerous.