

# RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

## INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS



**911**

for a crime in progress



**442-339-2197**

to report suspicious activity

## Trends Detectives are Observing

- Multiple neighborhoods throughout the county are being victimized.
- Suspects tend to target affluent areas and primarily only steal jewelry, gold bars, designer purses, shoes, and cash (rarely electronics or anything trackable).
- Suspects are utilizing real estate websites to case and survey homes.
- Houses that are backed up against green belts, golf courses, nature preserves, and access roads are being targeted.
- Suspects typically case homes during the day. Crime trends show suspects will enter homes during dark hours, specifically 6-8 PM.
- Suspects choose residences that: appear to be "secondary" homes; homes that appear to be unoccupied due to vacations/holidays etc.
- Suspects are entering residences through the second floor, usually through windows or glass doors.
- Keep in mind that glass double-door or French doors make your home vulnerable to glass-break-style entry.
- Suspects are targeting the "primary" bedroom or anywhere jewelry, safes, or cash may be stored.
- Suspects are organized: they use gloves and masks to bypass traditional evidence techniques (i.e. fingerprints, DNA).



# Suggestions on how you can protect your home.

## Surveillance Cameras

- Install surveillance cameras with MULTIPLE angles including back door coverage (not just doorbell).
- Install surveillance cameras inside your home such as in hallways and living spaces. This footage is helpful during prosecution.

## Lighting

- Install floodlights in both the rear and front of the house.
- Light entrances, rear doors, and dark areas around your house.
- Equip outdoor light fixtures with a timer or a photoelectric cell (sensor), which automatically turns the lights on at dusk and off at dawn.
- Light your residence so you never come home to a dark house.
- The key is making your house look occupied like someone is at home all the time.

## Doors

- If you are out of town, get your neighbors to check on your home routinely.
- Make sure ALL doors are locked and secured not just main entrance door.

## Windows

- Install security screen on glass windows (i.e. Nuvue, or 3M).

## Safes

- Small safes are generally easier for suspects to steal.
- Bolt down safes to ground.
- Consider putting a tracking device such as an "air tag" in a smaller safe.

## Other Tips

- Request home information to be obscure or taken down from websites (i.e. Google Maps).

## Neighborhood Collaboration

- Get to know your neighbors. Knowing their work schedules, work phone numbers, contracted services (gardeners, nannies, and housekeepers), vehicle information, and vacations.
- Remember this information helps you and your neighbors establish what is normal so you can take action when something is suspicious. It also gives you valuable resources to help your neighbors when necessary.
- Create a plan for neighborhood communication. Such as e-mail trees, newsletters, regular social gatherings, social media private group, and text trees.