A Cop's Guide to Preventing Burglaries

Detective Justin Elliott

Preventing Residential Burglaries

Don't Facebook, Instagram, or Tweet or vacation plans | Sometimes people who you think are your friends may be tempted to burglarize your house while you are on vacation.

Don't leave items in your front yard | Have your newspapers and mail delayed while you are on vacation. Have a trusted neighbor bring your trashcans in.

Close your garage door | Potential thieves will often simply walk through a neighborhood and look for open garage doors. Tools, sporting equipment, electronics, etc. are often clearly visible from the street when there is an open garage. Even if you are working in the yard, those items can disappear quickly if you're working in the back. Make it a routine to make sure your garage door is closed and man doors are locked.

Purchase timers for televisions, stereo equipment, and lamps | If you're on vacation, set electronics on timers to make your house appear occupied. Program these items to turn on at the same time you would typically be home.

Keep your property clean and illuminated | Leaving bikes, scooters, coolers, etc. in your front yard can be an invitation for criminals. Trim hedges and trees to create more visibility.

General tips

Photograph valuables (electronics, jewelry, etc.) and their serial numbers | Make it a yearly routine to photograph the serial numbered items in your house. I use a digital camera and thumb drive once a year and store them in my safe.

Get to know your neighbors | Knowing which vehicles look unusual in an area and calling police dispatch may help prevent or solve crimes. Do not be afraid to call us, we will respond and investigate. Try to get a general description of the vehicle (passenger car, truck, sports car, etc). Color, license plate, number of occupants, direction of travel, etc., are also helpful, but don't put yourself in danger.

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General Tips Continued

If you are the victim of a burglary, please minimize your contact with any potential evidence left on scene. If there is the possibility for physical evidence to be collected we will collect it.

Program (208)377-6790 into your phone | This is the non-emergency dispatch phone number for all of Ada County. Dispatch will send the appropriate agency and will send the next available unit to respond to your call.

Do NOT be afraid to give us a call! If you see or hear something suspicious call immediately, regardless of the time of day or night. Do not wait until the next morning to report something that is occurring at 2 a.m. We provide a service to your neighborhood, and no call is too small. We take pride in our jobs and work hard to make our community as safe as we can. If you don't call then we may not know about the crime. We would rather you call and it be nothing than letting a criminal victimize you or your neighborhood.

Be involved in your HOA or Neighborhood Watch. 100 sets of eyes are better than one to make your community safe.

Resources

Ada County Crime Mapper | To access the Crime Mapper, visit adasheriff.org and click the 'Crime Mapping' button at the left-hand side of the screen. Simply type in your address and check the boxes of the crime types listed below. The incidents on the map reflect activity in the last three months and only show reports from the Ada County Sheriff's Office, Boise Police Department, and the Meridian Police Department.

Community Relations Officer | If you have any questions or concerns that do not require immediate law enforcement response, please contact Lauren Schofield at lcschofield@adaweb.net or (208)577-3775. If you will require police assistance, please call 911 or the non-emergency number at 377-6790. We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/adacosheriff) and Twitter (@adacosheriff) for updates.