



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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February 13, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Understand Your Role in Neighborhood Crime Prevention

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . When you read or hear about a residential burglary, does it make you worry about your home? The Police Department encourages all residents to think about ways to prevent crime in your home and in your neighborhood. Doing so can help protect your property and help keep your loved ones safe from criminal harm or mischief.

Follow these tips and share them with your family, friends and neighbors so that we can all work together with police officers to prevent crime in our communities and maintain a good quality of life in Prince William County.

Preventing Burglaries

- Lock all doors and windows in your home, whether you are at home or just outside.
- Keep your garage secured, and secure valuable items that are inside the garage.
- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors, and take extra efforts to secure sliding glass doors.
- Keep shrubs trimmed below window level.
- Use adequate lighting inside and outside your home.
- When on vacation or away from home for an extended period, have a trusted neighbor collect your mail, newspapers and advertisements, mow your lawn, and even park their car in your driveway from time to time.
- Engrave all valuable items with your driver's license number, or take photos or a video inventory of these items.

Preventing Robberies

- Do not carry large amounts of cash, or more than two credit cards.
- Do not wear large amounts of valuable jewelry.
- Try to not walk around shopping areas, banks and convenience stores alone.
- Walk in well-lighted areas, and avoid dark, unlit shortcuts as much as possible.

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Preventing Auto Thefts, Larcenies from Autos

- Lock your vehicle and do not leave it running unattended, even for a brief period.
- Do not leave a spare key anywhere in, or on, your vehicle.
- Keep your registration card with you, not in your vehicle.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Use your parking brake and turn wheels toward the curb.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle; lock them in the trunk or remove them.

Neighborhood Watch is proven to be one of the best crime-prevention tools you can use, and training is provided to neighborhoods and communities that wish to start a Watch or reinvigorate an existing Watch. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270 for more information.

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