



## **CRIME TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS, BUSINESSES, AND VEHICLES**

### **Homeowners**

- Consider installing motion activated outdoor security lighting and/or a security system that will notify 911 first and then the owner. This is very important as time is critical.
- Never leave spare keys hidden under the doormat or elsewhere.
- Lock all doors, including garages and sheds.
- Make sure you close all windows when you are out, even small windows can allow a small person to enter.
- Keep all flammable liquids locked away.
- Secure weapons in vaults.
- Remove high shrubbery.
- Ask your family or police department to watch your home when you are out of town. Report any suspicious activity.

### **Businesses**

- Consider installing motion activated outdoor security lighting and a security system that will notify 911 first and then the owner.
- Install a high quality, high definition video camera system with a low lux rating to insure low light recording.
- Ensure no combustible materials are lying around which could be easily accessible to an arsonist.
- No packaging, waste or rubbish should accumulate on the premises or immediately outside - arrange for frequent collection of waste.
- Remove any items from outside your business that are not secured.
- Removal of excessive posters, banners, etc. from windows will allow clear view.
- Remove high shrubbery.
- Limit as far as possible the number of entrances in use (do not block fire exits).
- Leave lights on at night so that Law Enforcement can see into your business at night.

- Secure high theft items from view.
- Make it hard for thieves or arsonists to use items on your property as aide for their criminal intentions.
- Ask your family or police department to watch your business when you are out of town.
- Keep watch on what's going on; report any suspicious behaviors by strangers, customers or staff.

## Vehicles

- Protect your vehicles and belongings from theft by locking the doors, windows, and sunroof **every time** you leave your car.
- Do not leave your keys in your car.
- If you have an alarm or immobilizer, use it every time you Park; if you have a car garage use it.
- Do not leave valuables or personal property on display – put them in the trunk for security.
- Do not leave firearms while your vehicle is unattended; if you have them in your vehicle secure them in your trunk while your vehicle is unattended.
- If you can, take your belongings with you or lock them in the trunk; when away from home, park in a well-lit, location.
- It takes less than 30 seconds for a thief to break a window and steal your valuables. Don't be a target of opportunity.
- Most importantly, report any irregular or suspicious activities in your neighborhood to our Anonymous Crime **Tips Line 260-3600** or call **911**.

Our Police Department is more than willing to help you protect your business or home. Contact the Douglas Police Department at 912-384-2222, if you would like a free home and business security safety inspection.

