

### Residential Burglary

- Is “the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence.”
- The illegal entry may be made by force, such as breaking a window or slashing a screen, or may be without force by entering through an unlocked door or an open window.
- So long as the person has no legal right to be present (in the building) a burglary has occurred.

### Crimes of Opportunity

- The reason crime happens is because there is a criminal to commit the crime, a victim who can be victimized by the criminal and the location or opportunity for a crime to occur.
- You can reduce the likelihood of being the victim of criminal activity if you take away the opportunity for the criminal to make you his victim.
- For the most part, if you can take away a criminal’s opportunity, you can stop the crime
- Neighborhood Watch groups learn to: Deter, deny and delay criminal activity
- The more you do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer the home usually is

### Target Hardening Security Recommendations

- **DOORS** - Entry doors should be solid wood or metal with properly installed doorframes
- **DOORS** - hinges on the inside, or if exposed, hinges should be secured with hidden, non-removable pins
- **DOORS** - All doors have a single-cylinder deadbolt, with a minimum of 1” bolt
- **DOORS** - Strike plate should be security quality
- **WINDOWS** - All windows have a working, locking mechanism
- **GATES** – Use steel padlock and hasp

- **LIGHTS** - All entry ways should be well lighted, including backyards
- **LANDSCAPING** – Trim from doors and windows for visibility
- **PROPERTY LIST** – Engrave valuable property (phone number), photograph jewelry, art & collectibles, list serial numbers

### Doors and Locks

- Change the locks when moving into a new residence
- Keep your doors locked at ALL times
- Consider having a wide-angle (180°) door viewer installed in the entry door
- NEVER hide a key outside (don’t let burglars use your spare key)
- If you suspect your residence has been entered, DO NOT go in. Notify police immediately

### Windows

- Secure and lock windows when not in use and anytime you leave your residence
- Close blinds and curtains after dark
- Secure sliding patio doors with a piece of wood (dowel stick) in the track
- Auxiliary locking devices can be used for added security
- Shrubs and vines should not conceal windows

### General Security

- Always lock your doors, whether you are at home or away. Criminals will check the doorknob if you don’t answer the door.
- When you’re not at home, make it look as though somebody’s there (use timers for lights)
- Never let people know when your home will be unoccupied
- Avoid advertising your expensive purchases
- Practice Neighborhood Watch basics

### Answering the Door

- Never open your door to a stranger
- If a delivery or repair person arrives without notice, do not let them into your home. Verify with their office
- Respond to the “knock” by talking through the door, “Who is it?” By not responding, the person may assume no one is home
- All solicitors are required to have a permit, issued by the PAPD. Ask to see it
- Post a “No Solicitors” sign. It may reduce your contacts

### Protecting your Valuables

- Engrave or mark valuable property with your CDL
- Keep photos and descriptions of valuable property (include serial numbers)
- Consider safe deposit boxes for jewelry or small items

### Appearance of Your Home

(Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

- Direct visitors by means of fences, walkways and shrubs
- Plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult
- Trim shrubs and trees that could conceal criminals
- Cut back tree limbs that might allow thieves to climb into windows
- Use landscaping to provide maximum visibility to and from the house

### Protecting Your Vehicle Auto Burglary Prevention

- If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage door. Lock your vehicle even if it’s in the garage

- Don't bring attention to your car. It's an invitation to a break-in. Take valuables with you, place under the seat or lock them in the trunk
- Always lock the doors
- Park in well lighted and busy areas
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks, and other large vehicles. These vehicles can "hide" your vehicle and make it difficult for others to observe
- Periodically, check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered
- Consider an alarm or anti-theft device

### Report Suspicious People

- You are the Eyes and Ears for the police. Get involved and help by reporting crime
- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior or activity
- Be a good witness. Learn observation skills
- Call 9-1-1, as soon as possible. Don't hesitate by over-thinking it. We need the information
- We want to know about all suspicious people and activities in your neighborhood. You are the best person to know
- You can report it and let us be responsible to apprehend criminals

### Neighborhood Watch Basics

- Know who your neighbors are
- Know your neighborhood: what is normal activity, what cars do you see, families, children, layout of homes and parks, etc.
- Be a good neighbor. Look after your neighbor's home when they are away
- Share information – flyers, email. Plan ways to keep your group informed
- Plan activities to promote neighborhood unity towards awareness and safety

## KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY:

### EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Cell Phone Emergency  
9-1-1 (City of Palo Alto)

Non-emergency (24 hrs)  
650.329.2413

Police Front Desk/  
General Information  
650.329.2406  
M-F 8am – 5pm

Solicitor Permits, Block Parties:  
329.2147

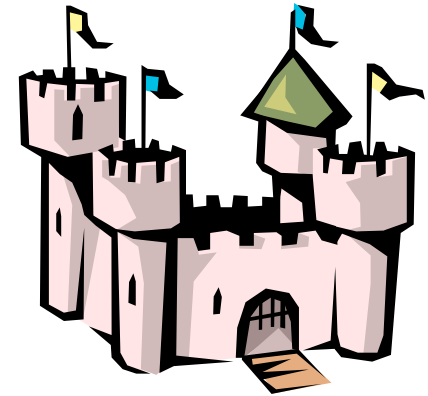
Neighborhood Watch Program  
650.329.2632



PALO ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CRIME PREVENTION BASICS

### HOME & VEHICLE SECURITY



*Your Home is Your Castle  
Make Your Home a Safer Place*

### DEFINITIONS

#### Burglary vs. Robbery

- **Burglary** is "the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence."
- **Robbery** is the felonious taking of personal property in the possession of another, from his person or immediate presence, and against his will, accomplished by means of force or fear.