

Residential Burglary

- Is "the unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry of a residence" with the purpose to commit a crime (usually theft).
- 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
- The more you do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer the home usually is

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 (or at least not in an obvious place!)
- 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
- Get trained on 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 commercial 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.

Appearance of Your Home

- (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)
- Route visitors by means of fences, walkways and shrubs
 - Plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult (but do not block fire escape)
 - 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

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.
- Take valuables with you, place under the seat or lock them in the trunk
- Always lock your car doors
- Park in well lighted and busy areas
- 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 Activity

- There is no such thing as "suspicious people", but there are those who act suspiciously.
- 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. Use your cell phone, if safe, to photograph suspects and vehicles.
- Call 9-1 -1, as soon as possible. Don't hesitate by over-thinking it.

Neighborhood Watch & Volunteers

The Neighborhood Watch program is now part of the City of Palo Alto's Emergency Services (ESV) program. Neighborhood crime prevention is one of the roles of the Block Preparedness Coordinators (BPCs). Everyone in your neighborhood can help by taking steps to prevent crime through these basic steps:

- 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 (e-mail lists, etc.) Plan ways to keep your group informed.
- Plan activities to promote neighborhood unity towards awareness and safety.

Learn more on the web:

www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicsafety

Phone Numbers:

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Police/Fire/Ambulance Emergency
9-1-1 (City of Palo Alto)

Non-emergency (24 hrs)
650-329-2413
(save this in your cell phone)

Police Front Desk/
General Information
650-329-2406

Solicitor Permits, Block Parties:
650-329-2147



Want even more information?

We have more crime-fighting tips posted:
www.cityofpaloalto.org/StopCrime

You can also sign up for various social media and e-news feeds on:
http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pol/social_media_connections.asp



Mobile App. For iOS devices, go to bit.ly/PAPD-AppStore. For Android devices, go to bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay

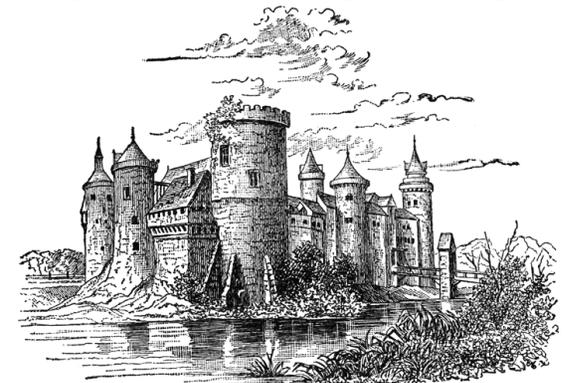
Want to know more about crime in your neighborhood? View all reported crime in Palo Alto on this online map:
www.crimereports.com

Need a police officer or another Public Safety representative to come to your next neighborhood meeting, block party or company safety/security meeting? Just e-mail oes@cityofpaloalto.org



**PALO ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT
&
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

CRIME PREVENTION BASICS



HOME & VEHICLE SECURITY

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