



# CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

# Auto Theft Prevention

- Close all windows, lock all doors and keep the keys with you at all times.
- Never hide a second set of keys anywhere on your vehicle.
- Never leave your vehicle running, even if you are only gone for a minute.
- Park in well lit areas. Over 50% of vehicle thefts occur at night.
- Use your garage and lock both your garage and vehicle.



- Don't leave your original registration or title in the car. It will be easier for a thief to sell your car if he/she has these two documents.
- Park in attended or busy lots. Thieves don't like witnesses.
- Older cars are as likely to be stolen as new ones. Their parts are easier to sell and worth a lot more than the actual car.
- Put all packages and personal items out of sight. A thief might want to break in because he/she sees something he likes inside your car.
- Have your VIN number etched on your windows.

# Child Safety Tips



- ◆ Have a private family code word for emergencies.
- ◆ Maintain current ID, including photograph, video and fingerprints.
- ◆ Maintain current addresses and phone numbers of your children's friends.
- ◆ Do not advertise your child's name on clothing, school supplies or backpacks.
- ◆ It is important to keep all doors and windows locked.
- ◆ Seek alternatives to leaving children alone in the home, on the street or in the car.
- ◆ Children should know their phone number and how to use a pay-phone without money to call home or 911.
- ◆ Be a role model to your children. Settle arguments with words, not violence.
- ◆ By promoting your child's self-esteem and letting them know that you love them for who they are, you will teach them the self-confidence they need to avoid drugs and crime.
- ◆ Listen to your children. Encourage them not to keep secrets from you.
- ◆ Your child should know that certain strangers can be helpful such as a Police Officer, moms with children, and store clerks.
- ◆ Teach your children what to do if they become separated in a crowd or a store. Seek assistance from a helpful stranger.
- ◆ Knowing your neighbors and neighborhood is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your family's safety.
- ◆ Report any crimes or suspicious activities to the law enforcement, school authorities and parents.

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



## Before Halloween

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase only those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props *must* be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Plan ahead to use only battery-powered lanterns or chemical light sticks in place of candles in decorations and costumes.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free at any payphone.
- Review with your children the principle of “Stop-Drop-Roll,” should their clothes catch on fire.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.
- Consider purchasing individually packaged healthy food alternatives (or safe non-food treats) for those who visit your home.
- Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.
- Learn or review CPR skills to aid someone who is choking or having a heart attack.

## Before Nightfall on Halloween



- Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects.
  - Always keep Jack O’ Lanterns and hot electric lamps away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children will be standing or walking.
  - Plan and review with your children the route and behavior, which is acceptable to you. Accompany your children and

- agree on a specific time when older revelers must return home.
- Along with flashlights for all, older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch and carry coins for non-emergency phone calls.
- Confine, segregate or otherwise prepare household pets for an evening of frightful sights and sounds. Be sure that all dogs and cats are wearing collars and proper identification tags. Consult your veterinarian for further advice.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.
- Adult partygoers should establish a designated driver.

## When Trick-or-Treating

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Remind Trick-or Treaters:
  - By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
  - Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
  - Only go to homes with a porch light on.
  - Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
  - If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
  - Never cut across yards or use alleys.
  - Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
  - Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
  - Always walk. Never run across a street.
  - Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom).
  - Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway or alley.
  - Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble-seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
  - Never consume food items or drinks that may be offered.
  - No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home.
  - Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity



## After Trick-or-Treating



- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- If you have an item that you felt was suspicious, wash your hands with soap and warm water for one minute.
  - Only items in their original packaging should be eaten.
  - Make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies) are given to those of an appropriate age.

# Home Invasion Safety Tips

To protect yourself from becoming a home invasion robbery victim, try the following:



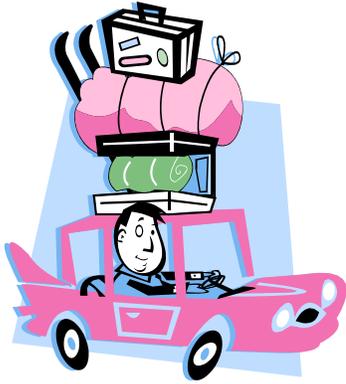
- Make sure that the exterior of your home is well lit, and that there are not any large trees or brush that block the view of your front door from the street.
- Make sure that all exterior doors and windows are locked and secure.
- If there is a door that leads from your garage directly into the house, make sure that it is locked and secured.
- If you have a burglar alarm, be sure that you have it armed.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash in your home.

**In addition, the Police Department is offering life-saving tips should you become a victim of a home invasion robbery.**

- Stay calm.
- Cooperate. No amount of cash or property is worth getting hurt over.
- Don't fight back. Instead, concentrate on getting information so you can be an effective witness.
- Look carefully at the intruders, even if they are masked. Is there something unique about them such as scars, tattoos, eye color, accents, large or small facial features such as nose or ears? Pay attention to what they are wearing, what color their clothing is and any distinguishing writing or brands on shirts, hats, or shoes. Listen to everything they say, and how they say it. Catch any distinguishing odors such as tobacco, alcohol, or aftershave.

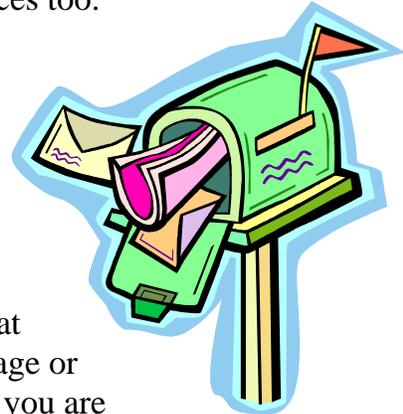


# Vacation Tips



**An empty house is a tempting target for a burglary. Use this checklist of tips to safeguard your home while you are gone.**

- Use quality locks on all doors and windows.
- Engrave valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by "CA") and post "Operation Identification" stickers (available from Crime Prevention/S.T.A.R.S. Office) on entry doors and windows.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door. Burglars know these places too.
- Stop all deliveries or arrange for someone to pick up mail, newspapers, and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and rake leaves to give your home a lived-in look.
- Use timers to turn lights and a radio on and off at appropriate times. Hide garbage cans in the garage or storage shed. Empty garbage cans tell a burglar you are



away, especially when everyone else's are full.



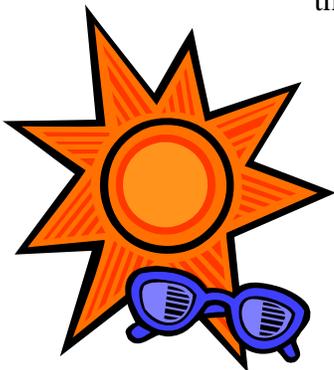
- Close and lock garage door and windows. Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you are away. Leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.

# WATER SAFETY TIPS



stay warm.

- ❖ Learn to swim! The best thing anyone can do to stay safe around water is to learn to swim. Always swim with a buddy; never go swimming alone. Swim in supervised areas only.
- ❖ Obey all water safety rules and posted signs.
- ❖ Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- ❖ Know how to prevent, recognize and respond to emergencies.
- ❖ Do not enter the water if you are too tired, too cold, too far from safety or have had too much sun or strenuous activity.
- ❖ Use proper sunscreens to decrease the risk of sunburn and sun-related skin cancers.
- ❖ Drink plenty of water regularly. Your body needs water to keep cool. Avoid drinks with alcohol and caffeine in them. They can make you feel good briefly but make the heats' effect on your body worse. This is especially true with beer which dehydrates your body.
- ❖ Watch for signs of heat stroke. Heat stroke is life threatening.



- ❖ Use sunglasses to protect your eyes from dangerous UV rays given off by the sun.
- ❖ Wear foot protection to keep from getting your feet burned or cut on broken glass in the sun.