

# **DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **Northeast Neighborhood Police Unit**

### **Crime Prevention Tips**



# Burglary Prevention



## What is Burglary?

A **Burglary** occurs when-without the consent of the owner-a person enters a habitation or building (or any part of the building) not open to the public with intent to perform a felony, theft or assault or remains concealed with intent to commit the same.

## CHARGES

**State Jail Felony** if committed in a building other than a habitation

**2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony** if committed in a habitation

**1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony** if the premise is a habitation; and any party to the offense entered the habitation with intent to commit a felony other than felony theft or committer or attempted to commit a felony other than felony theft.

**Enter** means to intrude any part of the body or any physical object connected with the body. (A finger, hand, arm, head, foot, leg or screw driver, pry bar, etc.)

## BURGLARY FACTS

- ♦ Household burglary is one of the easiest crimes to commit but one of the hardest to solve.
- ♦ A majority of household burglaries occur during daylight hours when most people are at work or school.
- ♦ Burglaries also occur at night when there are obvious signs that no one is home.
- ♦ Most apartment burglars are young males looking for things that are small, expensive, and can be easily converted to cash.
- ♦ Statistics show that in significant number of household burglaries there is no forced entry.
- ♦ There is a potential for death or injury in cases where a burglar is surprised by a property owner.

## THE BURGLAR

- ♦ Burglars have been known to put a piece of tape on the peep hole so you can't see who is knocking on the door.
- ♦ Burglars will knock on your door to see if you're home. If you answer the door, they'll quickly respond that they are looking for someone and ask if that person is there. They have also been known to ask if your neighbors are home to find out which homes are empty. They will then go to another door and do the same thing.
- ♦ Burglars will try the door knob and if the door is locked, they will force the door open with a pry tool or kick the door in.



## Burglary of Motor Vehicle Prevention Tips



Keep your vehicle locked all the times while driving or when parked at or away from home.

**The following are items that thieves like to take**

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>* CASH / CREDIT CARDS</b> | <b>* LAPTOP COMPUTERS</b>        |
| <b>* GPS UNITS</b>           | <b>* CD's / CD / MP3 PLAYERS</b> |
| <b>* CELL PHONES</b>         | <b>* PALM PILOTS / PDA's</b>     |
| <b>* RADAR DETECTORS</b>     | <b>* DRY CLEANING</b>            |
| <b>* RADIOS</b>              | <b>* DUFFLE BAGS</b>             |
| <b>* GOLF CLUBS</b>          | <b>* TOOLS</b>                   |
| <b>* BRIEFCASES</b>          | <b>* HANDBAGS</b>                |
| <b>* WALLETS</b>             |                                  |

Boxes and anything else that is visible from the outside of your vehicle.

### **Recommendations from The Dallas Police Department**

- Lock your vehicle
- Remove all of your valuables from inside your vehicle!
- Park in well-lighted areas and
- Report suspicious persons and activity to 911 immediately!



# Suspicious Activity



## WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

"Am I witnessing a crime?" Most of us have found ourselves wondering this at some time or other. However, because we are not really sure, we tend to ignore what we have just seen and, hoping it wasn't so, we continue about our business.

## "PEOPLE AREN'T SUSPICIOUS, BEHAVIOR IS!"

Here are some signs or behaviors that may be suspicious:

- ♦ **A person running** would be suspicious if he or she were looking about furtively, as if he or she were being watched or chased.
- ♦ **A stranger carrying property** at an unusual hour or location, especially if the items are stereo equipment, office machinery or a locked bicycle.
- ♦ **A person going door-to-door in an office building or a residential area** may be looking for an opportunity to steal.
- ♦ **Any person forcibly entering a locked vehicle**, especially at night and in one of our parking areas, is highly suspicious.
- ♦ **Property in vehicles.** This may not be suspicious unless the property is of an unusual nature: television sets, stereo equipment, unmounted tape decks or auto parts. Possible significance: could be stolen property.
- ♦ **Transactions being conducted from vehicles**, especially near schools or parks. You may be witnessing an illegal drug sale or sale of stolen property.
- ♦ **One or more persons sitting in a parked car closely scanning the area** around them may be lookouts for a burglary or robbery in progress, or for a crime being planned.
- ♦ **Certain moving vehicles**, such as vehicles moving slowly and running without lights or one that keeps passing the same area. It could be casing a building or house to burglarize, someone pushing drugs or someone planning another crime such as a robbery, kidnapping or sex offense.
- ♦ **A person (especially a juvenile or female) being forced into a vehicle** may be a kidnapping.
- ♦ **A person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms** may have been injured in an accident, be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medications, or otherwise need medical or psychiatric assistance.
- ♦ **Unusual noises**, including gunshots, screaming, sounds of fighting, barking dogs, or anything suggesting foul play, danger, or illegal activity.



# Security Habits



## In the home:

Leaving shades or draperies open only helps a burglar in spotting items of value before a burglary.  
Leave a radio on with the volume turned low to create some source of noise when leaving the home.

Never leave a note in the door for anyone explaining why you are not at home.

Never leave doors or windows unlocked.

Secure automatic garage door transmitter in the glove compartment of your car.

Always have lights on in more than one room when you are away at night. A timer or photo electric cell which automatically turns a living room light on at dusk is a good idea.

Keep the shrubbery trimmed near your doors and windows so they can be seen from the street.

Keep your grass cut, your leaves raked, etc., indicating a well-cared for and occupied home.

Empty your mailbox or arrange to have it emptied as soon as mail is delivered.

Never have your marital status or first or middle name on your nameplate or mailbox

    -key locks when moving into an apartment or previously owned home.

Keep extra keys out of sight and in a safe place.

Never hide a key outside. Most hiding places are obvious to burglars.

## On the telephone:

Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone.

Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home.

Never let a stranger on the telephone know you are home alone.

Instruct babysitters never to tell anyone who calls that they are home alone with children.

Teach children old enough to be left alone never to tell a stranger who telephones that their parents are gone. Teach them to say, "My Mom can't come to the phone now. May I take a message?"

Always close and lock garage doors.

## When going away:

Have a neighbor check your home. Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries. Have your neighbor pick up your paper and mail every day.



## Security Habits



### **When going away continued:**

Leave a key with a friend. Ask that the house be checked periodically. Have the drapes opened and closed and turn on different lights so the house appears occupied.

Store all your valuables.

Tell the police when you are leaving and when you plan to return. They will check on your house periodically.

### **Telephone:**

Do not disconnect telephone service. Instead, turn the bell tone to the lowest volume.

Consider having your telephone "put on vacation."

Use call forwarding, if available in your area.

Ask a neighbor to put some trash in your trash cans.

Consider invited friends, relatives, or associates to live in your home while you are away.

Leave "second car" in the driveway or ask neighbors to park in your driveway.

### **Confrontation:**

Get in the habit of surveying your home as you approach it. If you find any evidence that someone has broken in do not enter. Go to the nearest telephone and call the police. Should you confront a burglar the very first rule is GET OUT OF HIS WAY! Never get between a burglar and the exit, and never try to stop him. It may cost you your life!

If you can't get out, try to signal a neighbor—throw something through a window, just the noise may frighten a burglar away.

If someone should enter your bedroom while you are in bed, pretend that you are asleep (as long as he doesn't come near you).

If he is armed, do what he says. If you have children, be sure that they do as he says as well. Remain calm—he wants your property rather than your life.

Memorize a description of the intruder. When he has left, write it down before calling the police. Don't depend on memory.

If someone is prowling outside your house, make him think that several people are at home. Call to someone, "Dan, there's someone outside." Call the police. If it is dark, turn on lights.

If he has already broken in, retreat and put other doors between the two of you. (It is a good idea to have a deadbolt on an interior door.)