

Help the Norfolk Police Department identify and eliminate crime problems in your communities and participate in your Neighborhood Watch program. Take ownership of your neighborhood, and help create a safer community for you and your family.

Below are some basic crime prevention tips to reduce your chances in becoming a victim of crime.

AT HOME

Doors: Your doors should be equipped with a door viewer and deadbolt lock, with a one-inch throw.

Windows: All windows should be secure. Draw window shades or drapes after dark.

Trees and Shrubbery: Keep trimmed. Criminals look for hiding places. Shrubbery in front of windows enables anyone to pry unseen at a window or hide while looking inside.

Exterior Lighting: All entrances and garages should be well-lit.

Keys and Locks: Change your locks when moving into a new residence/apartment. Remove house keys when a mechanic has your car. Remember that whoever borrows a key from you can have it duplicated. Do not leave a key under a doormat, flower pot, etc.

Answering the Door: Remember that you do not have to answer your door. Should a stranger request to use your phone, do not allow the person to enter, and offer to make the call yourself.

Answering the Phone: If a stranger calls, DO NOT give the person any information, especially your phone number and whether you are home alone.

Going on Vacation: Stop deliveries if they will collect outside. Remove valuables from view. Your residence should still look "lived in." Tell a trusted neighbor who can also have a key, if needed. Use timers for lights and a radio.

Address Numbers: All too often police officers, firefighters, etc. cannot find an address because of hidden or hard to see (blending into background color) letters or numbers. Addresses should be easily visible day or night. Do not depend on painted curb numbers as cars often block them.

If You Are Burglarized: Do not go inside your home if you return to find that your home has been entered illegally. Call the Police immediately. Do not touch anything. You may destroy evidence.

ON THE STREET

Destinations: Plan your route and avoid short cuts through parks, vacant lots, or unlit areas. Walk near the curb and away from alleys and doorways.

Be ready: Do not overburden yourself with packages or a bulky purse. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.

In Your Car: Lock your doors. Never leave valuables in your vehicle or in plain view. Have your key in you hand so you do not have to linger before entering your vehicle. Be alert to anyone near your vehicle.

Don't be a victim: Do not carry large sums of money in your purse or wallet. If possible carry a small purse, tucked from view. Be wary approaching strangers. If someone grabs your purse, do not resist.

If attacked: Run to the nearest residence or business. Cries for help can discourage criminals and may result in their arrest. Be a good witness. Try and remember accurate descriptions of clothing, hair and height to give to the police.

Suspicious or Illegal activities: Report these immediately to the Police. Give accurate descriptions of suspects and/or vehicles, and remember to write down license numbers.

Concerned about security: The Crime Prevention Unit of the Norfolk Police Department offers a FREE SERVICE designed to help homeowners and business owners protect their property. While no plan is foolproof, a security survey can identify areas to improve security that may make it more difficult for a crime to occur. To schedule a Security Survey please contact:

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