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Burglary Prevention Tips

Here at the Brookville Police Department, we pride ourselves on keeping our communities safe. However, due to a recent increase in burglaries in surrounding communities, we would like to offer a few tips on how you can help keep our neighborhoods safe. We have drastically increased our patrols on the side streets and are working closer with the other Village Police agencies and Nassau County Police department.

The method of operation for these burglars is to look for houses that appear unoccupied. The suspects usually commit the burglaries at dusk. Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for darkened houses/houses appearing to be empty. **Even if you are HOME, remember to leave some interior and exterior lights on.** The following burglary prevention tips will help to make you and your family safe.

Kenneth Lack

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Chief of Police

The Burglary Basics

- Leave the lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors!
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Keep garage door openers out of plain sight. Either take them out of the car or put them in the glove box or center console.
- Always lock your garden sheds.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers, or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

Locks...get the best:

- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

If your home is broken into:

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

1. Do not enter- the perpetrator may still be inside.
2. Use your cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call 911
3. Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
4. Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles or take photos.
5. Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places—burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from the home—this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.

- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.

The **most** important thing you can do is **call 911** to report a crime or **any** suspicious activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes. **A suspicious person or vehicle is a 911 Call, not a call to Brookville HQ.**

Light up your residence (Even when Home), Lock your doors at all times, and call 911 when you see something suspicious.

Do NOT leave your residence looking unoccupied.