

Helpful Tips To Protect Your Home!

UNOCCUPIED HOMES

Most of us have to leave our homes for at least a little while during the day. People engaged in residential burglaries usually target homes based on what they observe while they are "casing" the area.

- Most home burglaries are committed during the daytime hours when people are most likely out of the house. They will specifically target unoccupied homes.
- Thieves like to see inside your home first to check for dogs, residents, security devices, and desirable property.
- Often times they will check for unlocked doors and windows, or ring doorbells prior to entering.



SECURITY TIPS

Protect Your Unoccupied Home.

- If you have a car not being driven for the day and is not in the garage, leave it parked in the driveway.
- Alarm systems are very helpful. Simply having signs that state your home is equipped with an alarm helps to deter theft. Furthermore, if your home is equipped with an alarm, unauthorized entry into your home will alert law enforcement and prompt an immediate response to your residence. If it is an audible alarm, it will let the suspect(s) know police are on their way and the notification of police will increase the likelihood of suspect apprehension.
- Man's best friend is not for everyone, however, if you do have a dog, the intimidation and/or noise produced by your pet has the potential to be a significant deterrent. Very few burglaries are completed in homes where a dog is present.
- Keep doors, windows, and all other points of entry into your home locked. Close blinds and window coverings.
- Invest in a video security system and register it with the police department through our NEST Program. Video does two things: 1) is evidence of the crime in progress and 2) helps us identify the suspect(s). This is voluntary and does not provide access to your system by SMPD.

PROACTIVE MEASURES

- Get to know your neighbors. A close-knit community is stronger and more effective in preventing crime. You will be familiar with cars and people in your neighborhood and know who doesn't belong.
- If you observe people whom you do not recognize or who you believe are behaving suspiciously, PLEASE call the police. Suspicious Persons calls are a helpful tool in preventing and solving crime. Sometime these calls assist in identifying suspects who are engaged in crime. In most cases, San Mateo residents will be our most crucial avenue for developing intelligence pertaining to these cases.
- Manage potential areas of "cover" around your home. Keep shrubs/bushes low and trimmed and don't provide an area for bad guys to hide. Make sure exterior lighting is operational

YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ITS MEMBERS ARE HERE TO SERVE EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS OUR GOAL TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER.

ONLINE REPORTING

Online reporting is available to victims of certain crimes. Reports can be made online when the loss is under \$5,000, the suspect is unknown, and there is no need for evidence processing.

Examples Include:

- Vandalism
- Harassing Phone Calls
- Theft from a vehicle (not burglary)

Online reporting allows you to file a police report at a time convenient to you. A free copy of the final report will be emailed back to you. This is available 24/7.

All reports will be reviewed and you may be contacted for follow-up.

To file, visit:
www.sanmateopolice.org



DO YOUR PART TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

We count on our community members to be our "eyes and ears." Report ANY suspicious activity to SMPD right away via 911, or (650)522-7700. You may also contact us anonymously by voicemail at (650)522-7676 or text message to (650)262-3473.

JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If a Neighborhood Watch does not exist on your block, you can start one with help from SMPD. For additional information about the City of San Mateo

Neighborhood Watch Program, call us at (650)522-7791 or email us at neighborhoodwatch@cityofsanmateo.org.

CITY OF SAN MATEO

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CITY OF SAN MATEO

SAN MATEO POLICE
DEPARTMENT



Home Security:

Safeguard your
home from
Burglars.

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