



# Consumer Advisory

## Home Safety Tips from the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office

Home invasions are often crimes of opportunity. To reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim, the following are practical home security tips to consider, especially during the warmer months of the year.

- Exterior doors:** Keep doors locked at night and consider putting in wide-angle peep holes at a height everyone in the household can use. Reinforce entryways with glass panels in a way that will prevent them from shattering. Keep the door leading from the attached garage into the house locked when not at home. Consider equipping this door, as well as all external doors with a keyed door lock and sturdy deadbolt lock. Garage doors should be closed at all times, even when there is someone at home.
- Windows and sliding doors:** Check to see that windows have a working key lock, or are securely pinned. Keep windows locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation. The safest sliding door is one with a dowel or a pin to prevent it from being shoved aside or lifted off the track. These doors should also have a strong, working key lock.
- Outdoor security:** Shrubs around the home, if not kept trimmed back, provide excellent hiding places for a would-be burglar. Dark places around the yard, garage and home can be minimized by having proper illumination, such as flood lights and motion-sensitive lighting systems. Homes with no outdoor lighting after dark are especially vulnerable to being targeted by crooks.
- For apartment or multi-housing unit dwellers:** Let management know when you will be out of town, and notify them when lighting is out or is not sufficient around walkways, parking lots, mailboxes, stairways, elevators laundry rooms, storage areas, etc.
- Working safely at home:** Mark expensive office equipment with identification numbers and keep an updated inventory list. Consider storing this, in addition to backups of documents in a secure or separate location such as a bank safe deposit box. When meeting a client for the first time, arrange to meet in a public place such as a coffee shop. Do not let anyone making an office delivery enter the home.

**DA – 18<sup>th</sup> Consumer Protection Line: 720-874-8547**