



CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY: RESIDENTIAL AND VEHICLE BURGLARY

We have recently seen an increase in residential and vehicle burglaries and thefts from unlocked or open vehicles and garages in St. Lucie County. The single most important crime prevention tip we can provide is to avoid being a target of opportunity. Here are some crime prevention tips and ideas you can follow to help keep our community safe:

- **Lock your home and car doors.**
- Call 9-1-1 at the first sign of anyone casing vehicles or homes. *casing = looking into vehicles or homes or loitering around them with no apparent purpose.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see anyone tampering with automobiles.
- Be a good witness - Try to get a vehicle license plate number. If you can't get the vehicle license plate number try to get as much identifying information about the vehicle or person as you can. Such as, color, make, model, damage, type of rims, stickers, etc. pertaining to vehicles. Clothing, scars, tattoos, oddities, etc. pertaining to people.
- Remove all items of value, such as GPS devices, cell phones, computers, purses, checkbooks, and I-Pods if the vehicle will be parked in a driveway or on the roadway. Avoid leaving anything of value inside your car in plain view. At the very least, the items should be placed out of view or locked in the trunk.
- Take a few precautions and send a strong crime prevention message to potential criminals. Forming a neighborhood watch group and communicating with your neighbors can help. Posting signs or stickers warning of security systems, neighborhood watch, cameras, or dogs can also deter criminal activity.
- Install a security and/or camera system if possible.
- Use lights on timers or motion controlled lights in and around your property.
- Don't make excuses or assumptions for the actions of others. Be alert and report. When in doubt, let the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office check it out.

WE CAN HELP:

- Free and confidential home or business security survey
- Neighborhood Watch program
- Citizens Observation Patrol
- Leaving town? Place your residence on a Close Patrol list while you are away.

Need more information? Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 772-871-5303.
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
"Raising the Standard...Through Community Partnerships"