

What Can You Do

One of the best defenses against a burglar is a working Neighbor-hood Watch program. A well educated community is one that knows what to look for and is not afraid to report suspicious people. The Indio Police Department would rather respond and find that everything is okay than not respond and miss the chance to catch a burglar.

If you are leaving on vacation, tell a neighbor. Use a timer to turn on lights and a TV inside your home. Stop your newspaper and have your mail service put on hold. Do not telegraph to others that you are not home.

When leaving your home, always turn on your alarm and lock your door.

Keep the bushes around your doors and windows trimmed so they do not provide cover for a burglar.

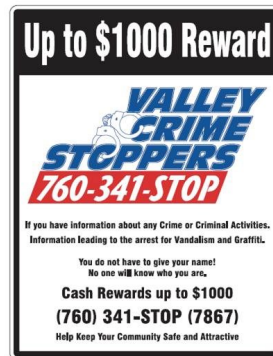
Remember

Law Enforcement Officers can't be everywhere at once.

- But you and your neighbors can.
- Put that neighborhood "know how" to work.



For more information about
Neighborhood Watch or to start a
program in your neighbor-hood please call
760-391-4037



This brochure was developed by the Indio
Police Department's C.H.I.P. program
(Citizens Helping Indio Police)



*"Our Community...
Our Commitment"*



Burglary, A Crime of Opportunity

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Who is the Burglar

We are often asked “what does a burglar look like?” The answer is that a burglar can be anyone. He/she could be the teenager living up the street or the senior citizen who collects aluminum cans. Burglars come in all sizes, shapes, and occupations. One of the best defenses against burglaries is a knowledgeable community. There are ways to spot a burglar.

- He/she may have been in your neighborhood last week cleaning windows, mowing lawns, or shampooing your carpets.
- He/she may have been the sales person going door to door who asked to use your restroom.
- He/she may have knocked on your door and asked directions. Had you not answered the door, he would have known that you were not home.
- He/she may be going door to door with a clip board in his hands or putting door hangers on door knobs.
- What good burglars share in common is that they can easily blend into your community.

What Do They Look For

Burglars are not looking to be arrested when they come into your neighborhood. They are looking for an easy mark. A home that has no one there. They would rather go into that unoccupied home rather than one that is occupied. They also want one that has something worth while to take. Burglars look for some of the following:

- A well landscaped home tells a burglar that you have class and you have money. They love to find homes with landscaping that covers the doors and windows.
- They really look for newspapers piled up in the driveway.
- If you have those nice decorative window panels adjacent to the door, don't have the alarm panel mounted in an area that can be seen from the outside. A turned off alarm in an unoccupied home tells the burglar that you have something worth stealing and the alarm is not activated.
- Prior to breaking into your home, a good burglar will try the doors to see if you forgot to lock them. One main door that is often forgotten is the door from the garage into the home.

Are You telling them Your not Home

While breaking a window makes noise, neighbors will usually stop what they are doing and listen. Not hearing more breaking glass, they re-turn to what they are doing. They very rarely investigate the noise.

- While those front windows that are left with the curtains drawn open may show off the warm home that you have, they allow the burglar to see what items you have worth stealing and verify that you are not home.
- That phone answering machine that you have recorded your vacation announcement is also an invitation to that burglar that says “come on over, no one is home”.
- A home that is dark too many evenings in a row is a tell tale sign that no one is home.
- A secluded home is an easier mark than a home that is visible from the street. Burglars would rather not be seen.
- While preparing to go on vacation, load your vehicle in the garage. Do not advertise that you are going on vacation by loading it in the public view.