



Helpful Tips on Protecting Your Neighborhood and Property



Work Together

1. Form a Neighborhood Watch group for your street or block. Talk to your neighbors — call the Crime Prevention Unit at 392-6914 to come give an in-home presentation to help you form your group.
2. Find someone on your street or block willing to be a Block Captain or Co-Captains.
3. Keep your Neighborhood Watch size small enough so you can maintain contact. A street or block working together is more efficient than a larger community trying to stay in contact. Neighborhood Watch is who you can see, and who can see you.
4. Report any and all crimes to Law Enforcement. Even if it seems insignificant, we need to know if it is going on. *For life threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1. Non-life threatening situations call (661) 861-3310. If you simply want to make a report, you also have the option of calling the KCSO report desk at 391-7471 **OR** filling out an online report at www.kernsheriff.com.
5. Act as the eyes and ears for Law Enforcement. As a resident, you know what is normal and what isn't for your neighborhood. Work with us to address issues and keep the Sheriff's Office informed by calling and reporting.

Decrease the Opportunity

1. Most property crimes are crimes of opportunity. Lessen the opportunity for criminals, lessen your chance of being a victim.
2. Park in a garage at night if possible. NEVER leave belongings in your car. Park under well-lit areas. Always make sure all doors are locked. Never leave your car running unattended to "warm up" or to load/unload items. Do not leave your garage open unless you are occupying it.
3. Make your home appear to be occupied. Most criminals do NOT want to enter an occupied home. If you are home simply yell from behind the door that you are not interested. Make sure your home is well lit—both interior and exterior.
4. If you are away, make your home still appear to be occupied. Close blinds, leave on a loud radio or TV, use randomized light timers. Ask a neighbor to get your mail or newspaper, turn on your porch light and put out your trashcans if you are on vacation.

Helpful Tips

1. If you don't have an alarm, get one, and USE it. Use it when you are home and away.
2. You need to have good durable locks and strike plates. Grade 1 or grade 2 deadbolts and strike plates are needed. Dowels in windows and sliding glass doors are recommended, but need to be cut to fit with very little wiggle room.
3. Secure your side gates. When trying to determine if a house is occupied, a criminal will often attempt to make entry to the side or rear of your home.
4. Keep your home well lit on the exterior. Motion lights are recommended as well.
5. Keep your landscaping maintained so someone cannot easily hide/look into windows unseen.
6. Do not feed or give money to the homeless or vagrants. It will keep them coming back to your area. Donate to various homeless shelters or non-profit organizations if you wish to help the less fortunate.

Kern County Sheriff's Office
(661) 861-3110
Kern County Sheriff's Office Crime
Prevention Unit
(661) 391-7559