

Neighborhood Watch & Theft Prevention- Operation ID

Operation Identification, known as Operation ID, is a burglary prevention program used in homes and businesses. Operation ID has traditionally involved marking property with a Driver's License number to discourage burglary and theft while identifying it so it can be returned. This process is time consuming and discourages many well intentioned participants.



However, Operation ID has evolved with new technology for easy completion. Follow these easy steps to complete Operation ID:

PHOTOGRAPH

Photo document your personal property with pictures and/or videotape. Digital photography allows quick picture taking and easy storage. Start with overview photographs of a room (wall by wall, ceiling to floor) before taking close-ups of specific property. Take pictures showing brand names and type before photographing the serial number. Items that are difficult to engrave (collectibles, furs, art, antiques, china, and jewelry) can be documented in larger groups with a tape measure to provide scale. Remember to document each room, all closets, shelves, the garage and vehicles.

Document your personal belongings on paper or with a computer. Include the quantity of items, item name/description, make and/or model, serial number, purchase cost, and purchase year.

DOCUMENT

After documenting property, store photographs and inventory, along with receipts of major purchases, in a secure place with a copy kept off-site (safe-deposit box). Review and update inventory annually. Display the Operation ID sticker near perimeter doors and windows to let potential burglars know your property is documented. Do not keep information in a lap-top or file that may be taken from your possession.

**For Crime Prevention tips contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit
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