

Crime Prevention Tip Sheet

- Get to know your neighbors by name and be able to identify them and their vehicles.
- Call 911 if you ever suspect someone is in your area who should not be.
- Reduce high bushes and other foliage around your home in which people can lurk or hide
- Give the appearance of someone being home when you are not. Leave lights on a timer and a car parked in the driveway.
- Have a neighbor check on your house frequently if you are out of town and take mail, newspapers and garbage pails in.
- Tell neighbors when you plan to have workmen coming, so that people posing as workmen will be quickly identified as such.
- Replace your exterior doors with solid core doors that are at least 1 ½" thick and secured with deadbolts. Make sure hinge screws in the jamb are at least 3" long. Lock all doors and windows when you are not home.
- Secure windows with 2 locking devices
- Close garage doors or secure valuables in a carport whenever you are not right there.
- Invite a member of APD to do a safety audit on your property. You could save up to 15% on your homeowner's insurance premiums as well as have a safer home.
- Record serial numbers of electronics and keep an inventory of all valuables including jewelry, china, electronics, etc. The inventory (pictures, written list, etc) should be kept in a fire safe box somewhere away from your home.
- Engrave property that doesn't have a serial number
- Consider an alarm system.
- Hide all valuables in your home or car. Someone should not be able to look into a window and see your valuables when you are not home. In the evenings when you are watching TV close the curtains/blinds so people can not look in and see the TV. Store purses, lap tops and cell phones out of sight.
- Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away for an extended period of time.

- Don't hide keys under the door mats or flowerpots or in a similar place.
- Let a neighbor, especially a block captain know how you can be reached if you are away.
- Let only those who need to know when you are going out of town.
- Report all crimes to the police immediately and post details on the listserv as well. If you are not on the listserv please consider joining and have your block captain post the incident (no names need to be used). The more information we have the better we can see patterns, prove to APD about the need for more patrols, and in general, better deal with crime in our area.
- If you believe someone has broken into your house, leave immediately and call 911.
- If you are not already, become a member of Highland Park Balcones West Area NA. The more community involvement and connectedness there is the safer we all will be.