

# *North Andover Police Department*

## **YOU MUST TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN PROTECTING YOUR HOME AGAINST BURLARY**

**House burglaries are a major problem for the Police Department. Burglars turn to homes because the yield is good and the risk is low.**

### **Secure Your Home.**

Security experts have long agreed that using quality, well-installed dead bolt locks along with security lighting such as motion sensor entrance lighting, reduces burglaries. Make sure your dead bolt has at least a one-inch throw. A credit card or some other tool between the jamb and the door cannot open a dead bolt lock. A good dead bolt can't be hack sawed either. Proper lighting to illuminate entryways, windows and other potential point of entry is an important deterrent. Lighting the address on your home in order to assist emergency units is essential for good home security.

A good home alarm system is essential. A space and sound detection alarm system is best. Physical contact systems are less expensive, but less effective.

Trimming hedges to below the window level and up from the ground prevent a burglar from hiding behind them while making an entry into your home.

### **Make Your Home Appear As Though Someone Is Inside.**

A burglar will not enter if it appears that someone is inside. As the last person leaves in the morning, close the garage door, take in the paper, and correct anything else that might indicate to a burglar that no one is home. Remember, most house burglaries occur during the day.

As you leave for the evening, leave lights on in the house. Do not leave a dark house with the porch light on. When gone for the weekend or on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to pick up the paper and the mail. Tell them who may be on the property while you are gone. Invest in an electric timer for your lights.

### **Be Able to Identify Any Item In Your Home.**

More often than not, victims are unable to say with certainty that a recovered item is theirs. We are constantly coming in contact with property that we know is stolen, but are unable to seize because we can't prove it. Thus property slips away, never to be returned to the rightful owner.

Take inventory of all the items in your home, which may be subject to theft. Record serial numbers.

Borrow a "Mechanical Pencil" from your local library. Mark your valuables where it is visible without dismantling the item.

When you engrave your property you may want to consider using your driver's license number if it is unique and not your social security number. Add "DL" to the end to indicate it is a driver's license and add "- 1, - 2, -3" etc. for each item that you engrave.

We also suggest you designate each item with its own suffix to denote that specific item. For example, an RCA VCR:

MA12345678DL-1.

Some items cannot be engraved, but can be photographed. Write the date, a description and the cost of the item on the back of the photo. You may consider videotaping the valuables in your home. Be sure to describe the item being shown, when it was purchased and how much it cost. Put the video in a safety deposit box.

### **When A Burglary Is Discovered Contact The Police Department Immediately.**

Do not disturb anything in the home or where the burglar may have entered or gone. Police officers are trained to search for and collect evidence, but they can't do this if you have destroyed it.

**Download** our “BURGLARY CHECK LIST”

and survey your home.

For more information you can contact the Crime Prevention Unit :

By email: [crimewatch@napd.us](mailto:crimewatch@napd.us) or call 978-683-3168