

Crime Prevention Requires All of Us



I hope you'll join me in working to reduce crime in our area. The police are working hard to patrol our neighborhoods and catch criminals in the act. ALWAYS call 911 when you see any suspicious or criminal activity.

It's likely we'll never be able to prevent every crime in our community. However if we all work together we can help reduce crime and the opportunities available to criminals looking for an easy score. To learn more about crime prevention and to find the schedule for beat meetings hosted by CAPS in your area, please visit chicago47.org.



► Burglary Prevention Information

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47th Ward Quality of Life Committee

Preventing Residential Burglary



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Burglary

- Most burglaries take place in the daytime hours while most of us are away at work and/or school. Burglars look for easy opportunities. By making your house and property more difficult to access, you can help prevent burglary.
- Nearly 33% of burglaries in the 47th Ward are classified as “unlawful entries.” This means that the criminal simply came in through an open door, window or other unrestricted entry point.
- Burglars are hard to apprehend because there are often no witnesses. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to burglary.

Doors

- The most common type of entry door in apartments or homes is the hinged door. It is important that all exterior doors be of solid core construction (1 3/4” thick if made of wood) or metal.
- Be sure to pair your key-in-the-knob locks with a deadbolt. Be sure the windows on your door don’t give easy access to the deadbolt release on the inside of the home.
- If you can have your door open out, it will help guard against the door being kicked-in.
- Always remember to lock your door when you leave. If you live in a building with a common entrance, never buzz in people you do not know.

Windows

- Remember to close and lock all your windows, even if only leaving for a few minutes.
- Windows on the ground floor are the most accessible. Be sure that your windows are fitted with locks that are functioning and consider adding key locks on the most vulnerable windows.
- Be mindful of securing window air conditioning units. Set dowels in the track and secure the unit to the window. Pushing the unit in is an often-used strategy to gain entry into homes and apartments.
- Don’t leave anything outside, like a ladder, that could give burglars access to the second floor.

Yards

- Gates, fencing, walls or hedges should not be more than 5 feet high. Tall privacy fences give privacy to criminals as well. Lower fences help us look out for one another.
- Keep gardens neat and clean so intruders cannot hide there.
- Keep bikes, toys, strollers and other valuables locked away safely.
- Install dusk till dawn security lighting. Motion detector lights in your backyard can help deter would-be criminals looking for an easy opportunity.

Garages

- Detach the emergency release cord from your motorized garage door. Or install a plastic zip tie around the release mechanism.
- Mark your garage with stickers from your local hardware store with your address. This helps police determine their location when responding to calls for service in the alley.
- Consider running cable locks through your lawn mower, snow blower, bicycles and other valuable equipment. Attach the cable lock to an eye bolt. This will deter criminals looking for a quick grab.
- Mark your property with your driver’s license number or other unique identifier. This can help police identify the property if it is recovered.

General Tips

- Consider leaving your porch lights on at night.
- Install timers on interior lights and/or leave a radio on when you’re not home.
- Talk to your neighbors regularly and set up an email list, Facebook page, or phone tree to disseminate information.
- Keep suitcases out of sight. Burglars will use them to take stolen items from your residence.
- Be sure that your insurance policy is up-to-date and that you carry enough coverage to replace property.