

Community Safety Tips

Everyone plays a crucial role in maintaining a secure living environment within an Association. There are many precautions that can be taken to decrease security problems. Here are some considerations for making your home safer.

Suspicious Activity

Always be aware of your surroundings. Make management aware of anything you consider suspicious behavior AND report all suspicious activity to the police department.

Neighborhood Watch/Awareness

In conjunction with your neighborhood police station. Groups of two to three persons can walk the area at different times throughout the day or evening and report suspicious activity to the police contact person. Leave all confrontations to the police as they are trained to handle this.

Doors

1. Entrance doors should never be left unlocked or propped open even if you are home.
2. Solid entry doors (without windows) should be constructed of solid wood or metal with a peephole installed within viewing range and include a wide-angle lens.
3. Reinforce exit door hinges and strike plates with 2 to 3 inch steel screws.
4. Install more than one lock on your door. At least one lock should be rated by the American National Standards Institute. A deadbolt should carry an ANSI Grade 1 Specification meaning it has been tested through 250,000 open/close cycles, projects one inch into the door frame, and can withstand ten strikes from a hammer.
5. Never open your door to strangers or solicitors. Request identification through a locked door and call the company they represent to confirm who they are.
6. Do not label your keys or keychain with your name and address. These items can be lost or stolen and will provide someone with access to your home, auto, workplace, etc.

Garage Doors

1. Keep garage doors closed and locked at all times.
2. Once inside your garage, promptly close the door behind you.
3. Service doors from your garage to your home should be locked.

Windows, Sliding Windows, and Sliding Patio Doors

1. Keep your windows closed and locked when you are away from your home.
2. Windows left open should have metal pins properly installed on the frame that will allow the window to open partially for ventilation.
3. Anti-theft security systems are available for all sliding windows.
4. Metal latches on sliding doors and windows are not locks. Insert solid wood dowels or metal rods in between the tracks.

Lighting

1. Use automatic light sensors that turn on outdoor lights when someone approaches.

2. Use timers on lights to turn them on/off at different times throughout the day or night even when you are home.
3. Consider emergency lighting that turns on when the power goes out. Inexpensive lighting such as AmerTac lights are placed anywhere in your home and turn on with a push of your hand. (Home Depot)
4. Avoid flammable lighting indoors such as kerosene lanterns
5. Place candles on a candle base and away from flammable material such as drapery.

Security Systems

Inexpensive alarm systems are available for windows, door, and entire home surroundings. Prices vary.

Break-ins

1. Never enter your home if the door is open or appears to have been forcefully opened. Call the police. Do not enter until the police have inspected your home and determined it to be safe. If a break-in did occur, immediately report it to the management.
2. Money, keys, purses, cell phones, etc. should not be left on the dashboard or car seat where they are visible to anyone passing by the vehicle.

Fire Safety Procedures

1. Keep a small all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen and be familiar with how to use it.
2. Use caution when smoking or using candles in your home.

Smoke Detectors

As of August 15, 2010, all single family homes in the city are required to have alarms on each floor, in each bedroom or sleeping area and within six feet of each door leading to a bedroom or sleeping area. The alarm must have a 10-year tamper proof battery or be hardwired (120 volt) with a battery backup. A list of smoke alarms that meet the minimum requirements is available on the Web at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/documents/AcceptableAlarms.pdf> . If you are not sure if your smoke detectors are up to date or you are interested in having Tamarack purchase and install them fill out a maintenance request at www.tamaracktrails.com . Normal rates apply for the inspection and/or installation.

Should a Fire Occur in Your Unit

1. Don't panic. Dial 911 to call the police, fire department, or an ambulance in an emergency.
2. Provide your name and street address.
3. Leave your unit and close the door behind you to prevent the spread of smoke or fire.
4. Alert your neighbors and notify the management company.