BURGLARY

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE SHERIFF

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Sheriff John "Randy" Bounds

Burglary Prevention Tips

Every 15 seconds in the US, a home burglary takes place, but there are so many things we can do to dramatically reduce the chances of falling victim. It's a sobering and frightening thought that in the time it takes you to read and discuss this newsletter - say 10 minutes - 40 home burglary crimes will be committed in the US. That's one home burglary every 15 seconds. (FBI UCR Stats)

Some of those home burglaries will be by scam artists who previously checked the homes out by posing as legitimate visitors, talking their way in and maybe even opening a window in a bathroom for easy access when they return. Some will be opportunists, who just happen to spot an easy target in a neighborhood - like an open door or window. And yet others will be experienced crooks who know how to "case a place" without being noticed, and know all the tricks of the trade for breaking and entering.

The average time it takes for a burglar to break into a home is less than a minute, and the amount of time they spend inside is little more than 10 minutes though, posing as contractors or furniture removers, they've been known to take much longer and completely empty a home.

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for uncut lawns and stuffed mailboxes. In the evening, they look for darkened houses or lights that have been left on too long. The following burglary prevention tips will help to make you and your family safer while also showing you how to become a part of the Sheriff's Office team - so that we may serve and protect Caroline County - our community - together.

~ Sheriff John "Randy" Bounds - Caroline County, MD

Burglary Prevention Basics

- ❖ Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- . Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- * Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- ❖ Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

OTHER RESOURCES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Visit the Caroline Sheriff's website www.carolinesheriff.net See what crime is in your neighborhood www.crimereports.com Sex Offender Registry Unit call: 410-479-4125 Caroline County Drug Task Force call: 410-820-4222 Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division call: 410-479-4123