

PREVENTING HOME BURGLARIES

Here are some basics, things that may prevent many residential burglaries:

- Lock doors and windows
 - Install security screens on windows that might be left open for ventilation.
 - If no security screen and sliding-glass windows are left open for ventilation, use thumbscrew-type lock in top track. Dowels in bottom track can be pried out.
- Install and lock side-yard gate(s) to deny access to back and side yards. Most break-ins occur there.
- Don't leave a spare key in obvious places near doors.
- Install a burglar alarm and use it every time you leave home.
- Don't ignore your door bell. Say "we can't come to the door" if you don't want to answer it.

For a lot more information see SDPD *Home Security Tips* at www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/HomeSecurity.pdf. The following topics are covered.

- Controlling Access
 - Physical Protection
 - Deterrent Measures
 - Burglar Alarms
 - Cameras in Homes
 - Cameras in Multi-Family Buildings
 - Procedures
 - Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You
 - One Burglar's Trade Secrets
- Providing Visibility
- Maintaining Your Property
- Protecting Your Home and Property When Away
- Helping To Prevent Residential Burglaries in Your Neighborhood
- Making Sure the Police Can Find Your Home
- Identifying Your Property
- Preventing Employee Theft

To do your own security assessment, see SDPD *Single-Family Residence Security Reference Material and Survey Form* at www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/SingleFamilyResidenceSecuritySurveyMaterial.pdf. The survey covers the following:

- Doors and gates
- Windows and other openings
- Lighting and utilities
- Landscaping
- Premises identification
- Garages
- Property condition
- Security measures

For questions, more information, etc., contact Tracey Williams, the SDPD Northwestern Division Community Relations Officer, by phone at (858) 523-7031 or by e-mail at TWilliams@pd.sandiego.gov.

Here are three other SDPD website pages that should be read to answer other questions.

See *Tips for Obtaining Crime Information* at

www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/ObtainingCrimeInformation.pdf

for the following sources:

- SDPD Website
- Crime Mapping
- Registered Sex Offenders
- Crime Alerts
- Nixle Community Information Sharing

See *Tips for Reporting Crime and Suspicious Activities* at

www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/ReportingCrimesAndSuspiciousActivities.pdf

for reporting the following:

- Emergencies
- Non-Emergencies
 - SDPD
 - Other Law Enforcement Agencies
- Providing Information about Crimes
 - SDPD
 - Crime Stoppers

See *Tips for Reporting Other Problems and Incidents* at

www.sandiego.gov/police/pdf/crimeprevention/ReportingOtherProblemsAndIncidents.pdf

for reporting the following:

- Graffiti
- Litter
- Animals
- Unsafe Street Conditions
- Code Violations
- Neighborhood Nuisances
- Abandoned Shopping Carts
- Child Abuse
- Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
- Lost Person with Alzheimer's Disease

The section on neighborhood nuisances states how the SDPD will assist neighbors wishing to take civil action against the owners of problem properties to abate nuisances. First send an e-mail describing the problem to Fred Zuckerman at **FZuckerman@pd.sandiego.gov**. He will work with you and guide you through a process to abate the nuisance. The process involves the following steps: collection of evidence, documentation of the nuisance effects, notification and negotiation with the property owner, demand that the nuisance be stopped, etc. If the property owner fails to abate the nuisance you and other neighbors affected by the nuisance can file a suit in small claims court where you describe the nuisance and your efforts to resolve it. In court, the judge has the power to order the property owner to abate the nuisance and/or pay monetary damages. There is no charge for the assistance. Court costs will usually be around \$100.