have you seen anyone suspicious?

If you do see a suspicious person or action, call the authorities immediately and answer all questions asked. Do not hang up.

Give an identifying description of the suspicious person, such as:

Sex _____

Race _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Age _____

Hair / Facial hair _____

Clothing _____

Auto make, model, color _____

License plate number _____

references

1. Vaughn, Michael G., et al. "Toward a quantitative typology of burglars: A latent profile analysis of career offenders." Journal of forensic sciences 53.6 (2008): 1387-1392.

2. Southeast Missouri State University. Burglary prevention.

3. Buck, Andrew J., Simon Hakim, and George F. Rengert. "Burglar alarms and the choice behavior of burglars: A suburban phenomenon." Journal of Criminal Justice 21.5 (1993): 497-507.

4. Cromwell, Paul, and James N. Olson. "The reasoning burglar: motives and decision-making strategies." In their own words: Criminals on crime (an anthology) (2005): 42-56.

5. University of Southern California. Burglary prevention.

6. Blevins, Kristie R., et al. Understanding decisions to burglarize from the offender's perspective. ProQuest, 2012.

7. Clarke, Ronald V., Elizabeth Perkins, and Donald J. Smith. "Explaining repeat residential burglaries: An analysis of property stolen." Crime Prevention Studies12 (2001): 119-132.

Designed by Protect America

Augusta Police Department

PREVENTING BURGLARY

a guide for citizens

Augusta Police Department

burglary: a preventable crime

Every year, more than 2.1 million burglaries are reported to law enforcement authorities. These account for 21% of property crimes in the United States. On average, one burglary results in a financial loss of **$1,725.** [1]

However, many of these crimes are completely preventable. With a small amount of preparation, you too can thwart would-be burglars.

1. check your locks

In almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves enter through unlocked doors or windows. [2] Commit to **locking every door and window every time** you're not home.

2. secure obvious entrances

94% of successful burglars enter through the ground floor. 70% enter through the front or back door. [3] **Concentrate your efforts on making these areas as secure as possible.**

Consider installing:

- Flood lights on every entry door.
- Dead-bolts on every entry door.
- Peep holes on every entry door.

3. make your place look occupied

Burglars prefer to target residences that are unoccupied. [4] **Create the illusion that you're home by:**

- Setting interior lights, TVs and stereos on timers. [5]
- Parking your spare vehicle in your driveway instead of your garage.
- Alerting the post office if you're going on vacation so your mail doesn't pile up.

4. ditch the hidden key

That spare key under your doormat is a free pass to any would-be thief. Instead, **give your spare key to a neighbor you trust.**

5. consider getting an alarm system

In a survey of 400+ career burglars, **83% said they would determine if an alarm was present before attempting a burglary.** [6] If you're seriously concerned about the safety of your home, a home security system can be a powerful deterrent.

6. they'll be back

If you're unlucky enough to be burgled, be aware. **76% of burglars return within 30 days to attempt another burglary.** [7]

If you've been burgled, change your locks, lock your doors and windows, make your residence appear as occupied as possible and consider getting an alarm system.