

Neighborhood Watch Simple Prevention Steps

October 8, 2013

Recently, I spoke with VPD Crime Prevention Office leader John Taylor, where he shared a few simple facts that would make us all much less vulnerable to crime if followed.

- In eighty percent (80%!) of all Home burglaries in Victoria this year, the perpetrators have entered the home through an unlocked door or window. So the simple act of keeping doors and windows locked at all times can provide a significant deterrent to criminals. This includes the Garage Door! Some criminals specialize in garage "shopping" (stop at a house with an open garage door and then dart in and grab something valuable). An open garage door is especially problematic for houses with an attached garage because this gives the criminal access to the home through the interconnecting door.
- Criminals are basically lazy (surprise!). They will tend to pick on houses that look like easy targets. If your home looks like it would be a difficult or risky the criminal will most likely pass you by to pick on a neighbor that looks easy or low risk. So, by making your home always look occupied and difficult to enter, you lower the probability of being a victim.
- Like individual homes, neighborhoods in Victoria have a reputation among the criminal element for being either easy & low-risk or difficult & high-risk. Criminals will tend to concentrate on the former when choosing a neighborhood to practice their skills. Neighborhoods become difficult & high-risk when the vast majority of homes are difficult AND neighbors are alert and look out for each other.

There is more that can be said about garage security, but I will save that for a future topic. Halloween is coming up and with that will come people from outside the neighborhood to Trick-or-Treat. So, have fun, but be alert too - for yourself and your neighbors!

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<http://woodwayhoa.com/neighborhood-watch/>

Victoria Police Department

For Emergencies: 911

Non-Emergency Call for Assistance 361-573-3221

<http://www.victoriatx.org/police/>