

GREENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Crime Prevention Tips for Seniors

AT HOME

- Never open your door automatically. Install and use a peephole.
- Never let strangers in your home without checking their identification. Don't be afraid of asking . . . if they are legitimate they won't mind. Call their company if you are not sure.
- Lock your doors (including the garage) at all times—even when you are home.
- Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or security devices.
- Don't leave notes on the door when going out.
- Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses.
- Keep an inventory with serial numbers and photographs of electronics and valuables. Keep a list of your medications, as well. Leave copies in a safe place.
- If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call yourself.
- Do not hide your keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places.
- Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

- Let a trusted friend know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Leave lights on when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone - a neighbor's child, perhaps - to mow the lawn if need be. Arrange for your mail to be held by the Post Office, or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- Make sure your home looks and sounds occupied . . . use an automatic timer to turn on lights, radio or TV.
- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, DON'T GO IN. Leave quietly and call 911 to report the crime.
- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently. Better yet, travel with friends.
- Don't carry any more cash than is necessary. Use checks and automatic teller cards instead of cash.

<http://www.gsopd.org>

Non-emergency 336-373-2222

Community Relations 336-373-2636

- Carry your purse very close to you . . . don't dangle it from your arm. Never leave your purse in a shopping cart. Never leave your purse unattended.
- Don't display large sums of cash.
- Always keep your car doors locked, whether you are in or out of your car. Keep your gas tank full and your engine properly maintained to avoid breakdowns.
- If your car breaks down, pull over to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait INSIDE the car for help. Avoid getting out of the car and making yourself a target before police arrive.
- Put your purse on the car floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it.
- Lock valuables and bags in the trunk. If interesting packages are out of sight, a thief will be less tempted to break in to steal them.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door or car.

PROTECT YOUR MONEY

- Have government checks directly deposited in your bank account. Avoid receiving your check by mail.
- Never withdraw money from your bank accounts for anyone except YOURSELF. Be wary of con artists and get-rich schemes that probably are too-good-to-be-true.
- Sign a check or a contract only when you are certain it is for a legitimate business and you know all the details. Check with a friend, lawyer or police when in doubt.
- Never give your money to someone who calls on you, identifying himself as a bank official. A bank will never ask you to remove your money. Banks need the use of your money, and they don't want one of their customers to invite crime by having large amounts of cash around.
- When someone approaches you with a get-rich-quick-scheme involving some or all of YOUR savings, it is HIS get-rich-quick-scheme. If it is a legitimate investment, the opportunity to contribute your funds will still be there tomorrow-after you have had time to consider it.
- Avoid telephone scams, like winning a foreign lottery, inheriting money from a long-lost relative, or a report of a grandchild in trouble. Never send money to someone you don't know.
- Be wary of "get rich quick" schemes for which you have to put up "good faith" money, investments that promise unusually large returns, "good deals" on home improvement jobs, supplemental insurance offers, and miracle cures. Don't give personal information to any of these scammers.

IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED

- If the attacker is after your purse or other valuables, don't resist. Your life and safety are more important than your things.
- If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. Call 911 and report the crime as soon as possible.
- Get a good description of the offender.
- Ask for a victim's advocate to help you deal with the event. The advocate can get you counseling, follow your case progress, and advise you of victim compensation laws.

TAKE ACTION

- Start and join a "Neighbor Watch" to keep an eye on your neighborhood. A concerned neighbor is often the best protection against crime because suspicious persons and activities are noticed and reported to police promptly.
- If a friend has been a victim of crime, be supportive. Listen, cook a meal, run errands, accompany him to court or the police station.
- Call your Community Resource Officer to talk to your community about crime prevention tips.