



LAKE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
OFFICE
LAKE COUNTY, ILL.



Property Theft Prevention

Mark C. Curran Jr. Sheriff

Everyone can be a victim of a crime anytime or anywhere. A theft is one of the most common types of crime that people fall victim too, however most thefts are considered 'crimes of opportunity'. That means that the offender targeted locations and property that they believed were easy to access and difficult to trace. Although these types of crimes are frequent, they are also very easy to prevent if each person follows some very simple rules:

#1 – Never leave valuables visible or easily accessible. A thief doesn't know to steal something if they don't know that it's there.

#2 - Always check your surrounding areas for anything that looks out of place (i.e. cars, persons). No one knows your neighborhood better than you and your neighbors, so if something doesn't look like it belongs there, there's a good chance it doesn't. Contact the Lake County Sheriff's Office as soon as possible with any information you can provide.

#3 - Communicate with your neighbors about things in your neighborhood. Regardless of personal views, they are your best eyes and ears when you're not home and vice versa.

#4 – Most thefts to your home happen during the day when the family is at work or school. Consider a home security system, or at least signage that would be discouraging to a potential thief (i.e. beware of dog, property under surveillance). Regardless of how secure you feel in your home and neighborhood, ALWAYS lock doors and windows of your home, garages, and sheds when you leave or go to sleep. There can't be a 'crime of opportunity' if there is no 'opportunity'.

#5 – The vast majority of thefts from vehicles happens during overnight hours because valuables are left visible inside an unlocked vehicle. To minimize your risk make sure to cover or remove any valuables from your vehicle, ensure windows are rolled up and lock all doors prior to leaving the vehicle.

#6 – During the late night hours it is invaluable to have the area around your home and vehicles illuminated to deter criminals. Doing these simple things will drastically reduce the chance of you being a victim.

Even though it's unfortunate that there are still situations that require people to take such measures to protect their family and property, following these few simple steps will greatly reduce the chance of anyone from falling victim to these types of crimes.



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