

Put the Heat on Summer Crime!

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CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Don't hide keys. Leave one with a trusted neighbor.
- Report broken streetlights. Lights discourage burglars.
- Don't leave house and car keys together with valet at public lots.
- Store ladders inside. Don't give a burglar access to the upstairs portion of your home.
- Women living alone should use only their first initial and last name on their mailbox.
- When you go out, leave on the lights, TV or radio.
- Vary your routine so a burglar will not know where you are.
- Do not let strangers into your home. Use a peephole.
- Use metal grillwork on glass around exterior doors.
- Secure patio doors.

WHEN YOU ARE ON VACATION

- Don't close the blinds. This will advertise the house is empty.
- Make sure the lawns are mowed.
- Don't discuss your absence in public. The wrong person may overhear.
- Arrange for a trusted friend to house sit.
- Use a clock timer to turn on the lights and radio at certain times.
- Either stop all deliveries or have someone make daily pick-ups.

AND JUST IN CASE IT HAPPENS TO YOU

- If you think your home has been burglarized, do not go inside. Go to another phone and call police.
- Don't touch anything in your home.
- Do not attempt a personal investigation.

INTERESTED IN STARTING A CRIME WATCH?

- Contact the Richland County Sheriff's Department at (803) 576-3033.

GOING on VACATION?

- Columbia residents can call the police department to set up a zone watch for their home or street if they go on vacation. Call (803) 545-3500.