

## TIPS FOR

# PROTECTING YOUR HOME

**Doors and windows are the most susceptible part of your home to break-ins.**

- Keep doors locked even when you're home.
- Close and lock windows when you are away.
- Use secondary locks on windows and sliding doors, especially older aluminum models.
- Any doors leading outside should be solid core.
- Consider investing in a good quality security door.
- Deadbolts should have a 1" throw bolt.
- The strike plate should be secured to the door frame with at least 3" screws.
- Reinforce any backdoors.

**Your home is typically most susceptible to burglary when it appears no one is home.**

- Burglaries typically occur from early morning to mid-afternoon when most residents are at work/school.
- Many intruders first knock on their intended victim's door to confirm the home is empty.
- If you are home when a stranger knocks on the door, it is recommended to speak through the door or security door.
- Video doorbells allow you to see and speak to strangers at your door, even when you are not home.

**Consider a home security system.**

- Home security and surveillance systems are often deterrents to thieves.
- Cameras should be visible, but not easily accessible.
- Modern security systems are typically accessible through your mobile device, and allow you to check in on your home while you are away.

**Take extra precaution if you are going to be away for an extended time.**

- Set your lights on timers so they will occasionally turn on and off.
- Arrange for a family member or trusted neighbor to collect any mail and newspapers.
- Request that this person roll your garbage can to the street on garbage day, even if it is empty.
- Request that they pull your garbage can in afterwards.
- Consider parking an extra vehicle in the driveway.

**The exterior of your home can give a thief clues as to what is inside your home.**

- Example: A thief who desires to steal firearms may see a NRA bumper sticker as a clue that firearms can be found inside a target home.
- The popular stick-figure families often seen in vehicles' back windows gives an intruder insight on who/what lives in your home.
- Keep valuables out of sight.

**Overgrown landscaping can create cover for a potential intruder.**

- Keep trees trimmed 6-8ft up from the base.
- Bushes should be trimmed up from the bottom to allow view underneath, and should not be so overgrown as to obscure windows and doors.
- Make sure your home's exterior is well-lit at night.
- Do not hide a key outside your home. Thieves know all the best hiding places.
- Avoid storing your garbage/yard waste cans near your side gate as these can be used to climb over the gate.
- Make sure your house number is posted and visible. If you have an alley post address on back fence. This helps first responders in the event of an emergency.



**Report any suspicious activity giving as much description as possible to dispatch. Make a report of all crimes. Get to know your neighbors. Participate in Neighborhood Watch.**

**Emergency Dispatch: 911**

**Non-Emergency Dispatch: (209) 522-2470**

**For information on Neighborhood Watch contact your local Modesto Police Department**

**Crime Prevention Officer:**

**CSO Miguel Hernandez (209) 342-6128    CSO Jennifer Slocum (209) 342-9127**

**CSO Rosie Garcia (209) 572-9636**