

Home Security & Safety

The following is a list of things you can do to help keep you and your home from becoming victimized. Nothing guarantees that you will not be victimized, however the more you can do, the less likely you make you and your home a target of crime.

1. Install home intruder alarm system; i.e. ADT, Monster Surveillance, Monitronics, etc. Install sensors on all doors that provide access to outside. Install sensors on all windows and/or an interior motion detector.
2. Lock doors and windows *routinely*. An unlocked window or door is the 1st place a thief will look for to gain access inside.
3. Place padlocks on backyard gates.
4. Install motion sensor floodlights around the exterior.
5. Trim bushes and trees around front and side entrances and windows so that no one can be hidden behind them.
6. Institute a neighborhood watch.
7. Inform (trusted) neighbors when going on vacation. Consider hiring a "house-sitter" when gone.
8. Obtain a locked or post office mailbox (to prevent ID theft).
9. Let suspicious persons know that you are watching them. Get license plates, descriptions of people and vehicles.
10. Get a cell phone. Keep it by your bed when sleeping.
11. Consider a dog.
12. Consider a 12 gauge pump action shotgun. If you do, take a firearms self-defense course. Practice shooting 3 to 4 times a year.
14. Take a personal protection course or a women's rape prevention/self-defense course (NOT a martial arts class).
15. Don't open your door to strangers at night. *Trust* your initial gut instinct. Don't dismiss feelings of suspicion.
16. If you live alone, change voice mail/answering machine message from "I" to "we are not home."
17. Secure all spare keys. Don't hide them near the front door.
18. Do not give out garage door access codes to anyone, including friends, family, or maintenance/service providers.
19. Secure valuables in a hidden safe or lockbox.
20. If you park your cars outside, keep your cars locked.
21. Don't leave anything of value inside the car.
22. Install an alarm system.
23. Report any suspicious person(s) to the police. They will want an overall physical description of the person(s), vehicle and direction of travel.

Frank Moro is a former Oregon State Police Senior Trooper who left state service as a detective in 2004. He is currently employed by the Public Defender Services of Lane County as a criminal investigator. In addition, Frank conducts foster home inspections throughout Lane County. Feel free to contact Frank if you have any questions. Frank can be reached at moro.fine@gmail.com.