



## Crime Alert: Daytime Burglaries

The South Lake Minnetonka Police Department has recently responded to reported daytime residential burglaries. These burglaries have occurred between midmorning and early afternoon. In each case it appears the burglar(s) gained entry to the homes via an unsecured (unlocked) doors or open overhead garage door. The South Lake Minnetonka Police Department would like to remind residents that the best way to protect your home and its valuables is to keep your home secured:

- Close and lock all doors and windows when you are not at home.
- Close overhead garage doors.
- If equipped, always use your alarm system.
- Install and use window locks, dead bolts, burglar bars, and security lights.
- If you are leaving home for an extended period of time let trusted neighbors, family or the police department know.

Burglars often look for signs that a home is unoccupied and vulnerable. To better protect yourself and your property take steps to minimize these perceptions:

- Turn on lights, TV, or radio when you leave home.
- If packing a vehicle, when at all possible pack your vehicle in a closed garage so that passerby's do not see.
- Place a hold on mail, newspaper, and package delivery, as accumulated mail is a sign that residents may be away.
- Have a lawn service, trusted friend or family member care for your lawn or shovel your driveway if you are away for an extended period of time.
- Enhance the visibility of all entry points into your home by cutting back concealing foliage, and lighting doorways.
- Install motion detection lights.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off.
- Use window coverings so the interior of your home is not easily seen.

Other important tips:

- Stolen property is usually sold or traded very quickly after the original theft. To increase chances of property being recovered residents should: Photograph, and record valuables corresponding identifying numbers or codes and keep records in a safe location (i.e. safety deposit box). This is especially important for jewelry, sterling silver, electronics, and firearms.
- Report to the police right away, by calling 911, any suspicious activity you see such as: strange or unfamiliar cars in the neighborhood, persons on foot going door to door, abnormal noises or lights, and unexplained dog barking.

- Burglars often times make note of publicly scheduled events such as weddings, graduations, funerals, etc. If you or a loved one is the subject of a public announcement which would indicate a time when a home would be unoccupied, look for a trusted friend or family member to watch the residence during the time of the event.

**If you have any questions or concerns about this alert please contact the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department at #952-474-3261 during normal business hours. For an immediate response please dial #911 to speak with a Hennepin County Sheriff's Dispatcher.**

Visit us on the web at <http://www.southlakepd.com/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/southlakepd>



**South Lake Minnetonka Police Department  
Proudly serving the Lake Area communities of  
Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay since 1973.**