

Press Release



Safe Habits for the New Year

Apache Junction, Arizona, December 31, 2014 – The Apache Junction Police Department would like to provide the citizens of Apache Junction with tips to protect their personal property. This would pertain to a person’s residence, their vehicle and their neighborhood.

Residential burglaries occur, more often than not, randomly, as the opportunity presents itself. Evaluate your home and determine if it would be an easy target. Don’t forget to take into consideration the fact that your home may be vacant during the day. If there is an alley bordering the back yard, you may also need to take extra precautions.

Vehicle burglaries, unfortunately, are also a good resource for thieves, especially during the holiday season. Sometimes the target vehicles are in parking lots, and sometimes they’re right in your driveway. Would the items that can be seen in your vehicle be profitable to the thief?

When a neighbor becomes a victim of a burglary, it puts the whole neighborhood on alert. To prevent that first burglary, neighbors need to be cognizant of what is going on in the area, as they should know what is normal and what is not. If something does look suspicious, do not hesitate to call the police department.

The following is a list of suggestions to help avoid becoming a victim of burglary:

- Good locks on windows and doors of a home are a necessity. Don’t forget the sliding glass patio door. Use a pin lock or a dowel in the door track to make it more secure. Limit visibility into the home while gone, and do not leave valuables out that are visible from the street. Alarm systems and surveillance cameras are ideal; however, good neighbors and dogs are also great deterrents.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle that you wouldn’t want to lose. If you park outside at night and also have a garage, make sure you don’t leave a garage door opener inside. Always check to make sure windows are up and doors are locked. While shopping, keep all packages in the trunk or out of sight. Be aware of your surroundings and ask store or mall personnel for an escort if you feel nervous in any way walking to your vehicle.
- Get to know your neighbors and do what you can to keep the neighborhood safe. If a crime in progress is observed, call 911 immediately. If something or someone looks suspicious or out of place in your neighborhood, call the non-emergency police number, (480) 982-8260, for an officer to check it out.

Apache Junction Police Department’s Community Resource Coordinator, Serene Carney, can be contacted at (480) 474-5442 or scarney@ajcity.net for information on starting a Neighborhood

Watch group or for someone to speak at a neighborhood meeting. Working together and sharing information empowers us all to take control of our safety. Have a safe and happy new year.

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