



Coeur d'Alene Police

Protect and Serve

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Chief Wayne M. Longo

Neighborhood Watch

Why a Neighborhood Watch?

Partnership with the community and the police will deter crime and protect our neighborhoods. We all share this responsibility. Neighborhood Watch is an example of Sir Robert Peel's philosophy, "**The police are the people, and the people are the police.**" Groups of organized, informed citizens dedicated to protecting their neighborhoods help ensure the quality of life that is so important to all of us.

The best indicator of any police department's effectiveness is the absence of crime. The goal of Neighborhood Watch is to partner with your police department in a proactive stance against crime and those that would hurt others. A well-informed, active Neighborhood Watch is an extension of the police presence. Neighborhood Watch is proven to be effective throughout the United States and in our area. We support neighbors helping neighbors working together to prevent crime.

A major function and goal of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department is to inform, educate, and assist Neighborhood Watch members share in the goal of protecting and preserving the quality of life that we all cherish. Left unprotected, neighborhoods can fall victim to crime and the associated costs and issues crime brings with it.

The men and women of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department are committed to stand side by side with our citizens in an ongoing effort to keep our city safe.

Thank you for taking this positive, proactive step to deter crime.

Wayne M. Longo
Chief of Police

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It is not necessary for you to read all the material in this handbook. Take a look at the *Table of contents* to see what areas apply to you and your home.

It is suggested that you begin the handbook by answering the *Home security survey*. The survey gives you an idea regarding what makes a home secure and how to assess its security risk. For those questions which you answer "no," find that topic area in the handbook and learn how to correct your security weaknesses.

But if you have time — read the whole handbook. The more you know about crime prevention, the more likely you will be to take prevention steps to secure your home.

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Home security survey

Before you read this handbook, survey your home with the checklist provided below. Every "no" check mark shows a weak point that may help a burglar. As you eliminate the "no" checks, you improve your protection.

Go through this list carefully and systematically. If you have security weaknesses, read this handbook to find out how to correct them.

Remember, this checklist only points out your weak areas. You are not protected until these are corrected. Complying with these suggestions will not, of course, make your property burglar proof, but it will certainly improve your protection.

SAFE PRACTICES

- | | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----|
| 1. Do you keep a list of all valuable property? | [] | [] |
| 2. Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your watches, cameras, typewriters and similar items? | [] | [] |
| 3. Do you have a description of other valuable property that does not have a number? | [] | [] |
| 4. Do you avoid unnecessary display or publicity of your valuables? | [] | [] |
| 5. Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank? | [] | [] |
| 6. Do you plan so that you do not need to "hide" a key under the door mat or similar vicinity? | [] | [] |
| 7. Have you told your family what to do if they discover a burglar breaking in or already in the house? | [] | [] |
| 8. Have you told your family to leave the house undisturbed and call the sheriff or police if they discover a burglary has been committed? | [] | [] |
| 9. Are your trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places? | [] | [] |

YES NO

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| 10. Do you have a security closet with a solid core door, pinned hinges and deadbolt lock? | [] | [] |
| 11. Do you have emergency telephone numbers listed on your phone? | [] | [] |
| 12. Are lights installed around the perimeter of your house? | [] | [] |
| 13. Is your house number illuminated and easily visible from the street during all hours of the day? | [] | [] |
| 14. Have you made it more difficult for the burglar by locking up your ladder, avoiding trellises and drain pipes that can be used as a ladder for access to the second floor or roof? | [] | [] |

WHEN YOU GO ON A TRIP

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 15. Do you arrange for neighbors or friends to pick up papers, milk, mail, packages? | [] | [] |
| 16. Do you notify a neighbor? | [] | [] |
| 17. Do you notify your police/sheriff? (They provide vacation checks of homes in some jurisdictions.) | [] | [] |
| 18. Do you leave some shades up or curtains open so the house doesn't look deserted? | [] | [] |
| 19. Do you arrange to keep your lawn maintained? | [] | [] |
| 20. Do you have timing devices for your lamps? | [] | [] |

DOORS AND ENTRY AREAS

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 21. Are your exterior doors of solid core construction? | [] | [] |
| 22. Do entry doors have a wide-angle viewer? | [] | [] |

- | | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----|
| 23. Are your door locks secure from being opened if a burglar breaks out glass or a panel of light wood? | [] | [] |
| 24. Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and beveled cylinder guard? | [] | [] |
| 25. Do the doors without cylinder locks have a heavy bolt or some similar secure device that can be operated only from the inside? | [] | [] |
| 26. Can all of your doors (basement, porch, french, balcony) be securely locked? | [] | [] |
| 27. Do your basement doors have locks that allow you to isolate that part of your house? | [] | [] |
| 28. Are your locks all in good repair? | [] | [] |
| 29. Are the door strike plates installed with three-inch screws? | [] | [] |
| 30. Do you know everyone who has a key to your house? (Or are there some still in possession of previous owners and friends?) | [] | [] |
| 31. Do all outswinging doors have the hinges pinned or have nonremovable pins? | [] | [] |
| 32. Are entry areas unobstructed by shrubbery and other decor to permit maximum visibility? | [] | [] |
| 33. Does the porch light have a minimum 60-watt bulb? | [] | [] |
| 34. Do sliding doors have an auxiliary lock that locks both the door panels together or active side to the frame? | [] | [] |
| 35. Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp or other good auxiliary lock? | [] | [] |

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----|-----|
| 36. Do you lock your garage door at night? | [] | [] |
| 37. Do you lock your garage door when you are away from home? | [] | [] |
| 38. Do you lock your car and take the keys out even when it is parked in your garage? | [] | [] |

WINDOWS

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 39. Are all windows equipped with auxiliary key locks or pinned? | [] | [] |
| 40. Have you replaced or secured louvered windows? | [] | [] |
| 41. Are your window locks properly and securely mounted? | [] | [] |
| 42. Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut? | [] | [] |
| 43. Do you use locks that allow you to lock a window that is partly open? | [] | [] |
| 44. In high hazard locations, do you use bars or ornamental grille? | [] | [] |
| 45. Do you have good, secure locks on garage windows? | [] | [] |
| 46. Do you have garage windows covered with curtains? | [] | [] |
| 47. Are you as careful of basement and second floor windows as you are of those on the first floor? | [] | [] |

If you would like professional advice and assistance in a thorough home security inspection, call your local law enforcement agency. To keep your guard up, take a critical look at your home security every three to four months. Do not become lax — crime prevention is a continuous process.

Concepts of burglary prevention

Prevention involves five concepts: deter, deny, delay, detect and deceive. An effective burglary prevention program is based upon appropriate action to implement these five concepts.

The following example is an all-too-common result when a residential dweller overlooks prevention concepts in favor of a particular preventive step:

The resident went to considerable expense to install the finest window and door locks, thereby implementing one step to address the concept of deterrence and possibly the concept of delay. The resident, secure in the knowledge that the residence was now safe, departed on a short vacation. The resident returned to find a burglar had simply broken a window to gain entry. The window was concealed from the public view by a large bush. The burglar had taken many expensive items of jewelry. The resident concluded crime prevention was a failure.

In this example, the resident concentrated on only *one step* and only *one concept*. What led to the burglary was the failure to implement other prevention concepts and to implement more specific steps. Consider how different the situation might have been if the resident had implemented the following concepts and preventive steps:

Deter: Placed Operation I.D. decals on the windows to let the burglar know that property items were marked. Lighted accessible locations of the yard during the night hours.

Deny: Placed valuables in a secure location, e.g., wall safe or security closet.

Delay: Installed key-locking latches on windows.

Detect: Installed an alarm system. Joined a neighborhood watch program so the neighbors would have been watching the house.

Deceive: Placed automatic timers on lights to simulate the home was occupied. Had neighbors pick up mail and other deliveries and mow the lawn to maintain a lived-in appearance.

These five preventive concepts can also aid in apprehension. The longer a burglar is denied entry, the greater his chances for observation by neighbors and apprehension by law enforcement.

You cannot make a residence absolutely burglar-proof, but you can make entry so difficult that the burglar will go elsewhere in search of an easier target. **THE MORE CRIME PREVENTION STEPS YOU TAKE, THE GREATER YOUR SECURITY.**

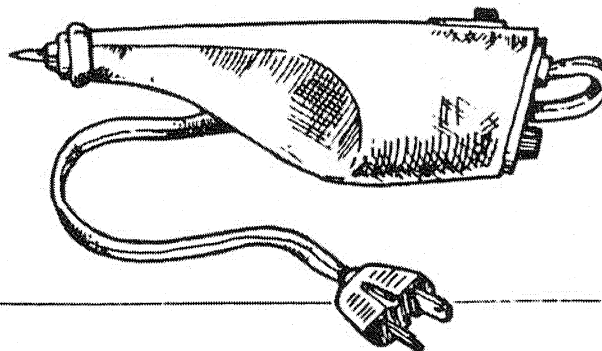
Protecting the home's interior

MARKING AND RECORDING YOUR PROPERTY — OPERATION I.D.

The experience of a number of communities vividly confirms that you and your community can reduce the risk of burglary by the simple action of marking your possessions. Some towns have had up to a 25 percent decline in burglaries after instituting such a program. This program is usually known as "Operation I.D."

Using an inexpensive electric etching pencil or engraver — often available on loan from your local law enforcement agency — you engrave your personal property with your driver's license number. (Do not use your social security number. Federal law forbids the use of social security numbers to trace an individual.)

Inscribe your driver's license number, preceded by the letters "ID DL" (Idaho Drivers License), on furniture, appliances, guns, cameras, lawn equipment, tools, musical instruments, etc. These numbers can be placed on the base or rear portion of the item without marring the appearance of the item. Electric engraving pencils are as easy to write with as a ball point pen, sell for less than \$10, and are a worthwhile investment for yourself and your community.



Some small items, such as jewelry which cannot be marked, should be photographed. Extremely valuable jewelry should be appraised, as well, by a reputable appraiser. Place a description and listing of the items on the back of the photograph. In fact, you may wish to photograph each room in your house.



Once you have marked your property, record it on an inventory list. A sample inventory form appears in the back of this handbook. Put one copy of the list in your safe deposit box or otherwise out of reach of a visiting burglar.

Also, save receipts and serial numbers from your more valuable items and keep them with the inventory list. If you have a burglary loss — or a fire, storm or any other kind of loss — the list will help you remember what was lost and the receipts will help you establish proof of their value for filing an insurance claim.

Update your inventory at least once a year to make sure newly-bought items are listed.

There is convincing evidence that burglars avoid both homes and communities where a personal property identification system is in force. After identifying your property, then let a would-be burglar know that the property is marked. Many local law enforcement agencies provide decals and further information regarding this program.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a program of mutual assistance among neighbors aimed at reducing crime in the community at the grass roots level. It involves getting to know one's neighbors and introducing them to the concept that good neighbors working together can look out for one another's interests.

Neighborhood Watch is designed to reduce burglaries and other neighborhood crimes by requesting your participation in the following manner:

- Know your neighbors and communicate with them.
- Record car license numbers and descriptions of suspicious persons.
- Never hesitate to call the police.
- Have secure door and window locks — and use them.
- When you are going to be away:

Tell your neighbors.

Arrange for pickup of mail and other deliveries.

Be suspicious of:

- That person you have never seen before.
- That person (young or old) selling candy, newspaper and magazine subscriptions.
- That person (young or old) taking a "shortcut" through your backyard.
- That repairman, delivery man or visitor at your neighbor's door.

- That unfamiliar vehicle (car, truck or moving van) in your neighbor's drive.

Be a good neighbor:

- If you notice anything suspicious, call your law enforcement agency.

To find out more about Neighborhood Watch contact your local law enforcement agency. Take the initiative and start a Neighborhood Watch program in your area.

DO NOT ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PLANS

Inform one or two persons of your vacation plans - a trusted neighbor who can keep an eye on things while you are gone. Have them pick up your newspaper and other deliveries. **DO NOT INFORM ANY OF YOUR DELIVERY PEOPLE THAT YOU WILL BE ON VACATION.** Do not forget to arrange to have the lawn mowed in order to maintain a lived-in appearance.



BE NEIGHBORLY

Talk with your neighbors regarding your concern about burglary. Tell them what you are doing to protect your home. Ask them to report any suspicious persons or activities around your home to your law enforcement agency. Good neighbors make safe neighborhoods.

DON'T WELCOME BURGLARS BY TELEPHONE

Burglars often try to find out if anyone is home by phoning. If you get several suspicious "wrong number" calls or "nobody-at-the-other-end" calls, tell the police. Warn family members, especially children, not to give out information by phone - especially about who is home, who is out, how long anyone is expected to be out.

If you use an answering service, do not indicate on the recording that you will be gone for a



specific time. A more appropriate message is that you are unavailable at this time and you will return the call as soon as possible.

Do not place your full name on the mailbox, door or apartment building; use your first initial and last name only. Your name on display only makes it easier for the burglar to look your number up in the directory.

DO NOT REWARD THE BURGLAR WHO DOES GET IN

If, despite your precautions, a burglar does get into your home, do not give him a "bonus" of cash or easily-carried jewelry. Never keep large sums of cash around the house. Keep valuable jewelry that you do not often use in a safe deposit box or create a security closet.

SECONDARY BARRIER OR SECURITY CLOSET

A secondary barrier or security closet can be created as an additional safeguard. An existing closet can be used to store jewelry, furs, camera equipment, guns, silverware and other valuables.

For a security closet, the door should be solid core and equipped with a single cylinder deadbolt lock. The hinges of this door should be pinned.