

Police Offer Crime Prevention Tips

One of the labels we do not want is that of a “victim”. Unfortunately the label of “victim” is often associated with a criminal act. The theft of property is often the “victimization” in which citizens require police assistance. Incidents of this type are often crimes of opportunity. So by practicing some basic crime prevention measures, perhaps we can reduce the possibility of becoming a “victim”.

Businesses become targets during the evening hours for various reasons; the business is closed, fewer people are on the streets, no employees are around, and the cover of darkness. A few helpful tips that aid businesses might include:

1. If equipped with an alarm system, be sure it is activated and in good working order. The city ordinance requires all alarms to be registered at the police department. There is no fee for the permit.
2. Should you receive a notification from your alarm service, please do not ignore it or request that the police not be called. Let the alarm company notify the Police.
3. If equipped with a camera system, be sure all doors are covered by the cameras. Additional cameras should cover the cash register and office areas. A camera system that is capable of recording for several weeks before being erased or overwritten is desirable. Insure the camera is in good working order and covers your business property. Also take measures to provide for the security of the device storing the recordings.
4. Business owners should try to make daily deposits of receipts. If using a safe, try to mount it or secure it to a structural part of the building. The police department does provide escorts for businesses that close late at night.
5. Insure there is good lighting on the exterior of the business.
6. Limit the amount of items (signs, displays, etc) that are displayed on windows and storefronts that might block the view of an officer on patrol.
7. Check the building's exterior for damages, vandalism or signs of tampering.
8. If you should find that your business has been entered, do not enter the business, notify police and await their arrival.

For other types of thefts, some basic prevention tips include:

9. Lock your vehicles, even at your own residence.
10. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle in plain sight.
11. Lock your residence. This should include doors and windows.
12. Insure there is exterior lighting around your residence and in good working order.
13. Be aware of what items you leave in your yard or open garage that can be easily observed.
14. Watch out for your neighbor as you would want them to watch for you.
15. Register your bicycle with the police department.

There are other crime prevention measures that the police department would like to share with citizens and business owners. Any questions about programs available for crime prevention should be directed to Detective Sergeant Harry Conway at (931) 455-0530 or tpd@tullahomatn.gov or hconway@tullahomatn.gov . Should you have questions about other Police department programs I can be reached at pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov .