

Safety Tips for Senior Citizens

The following are suggested ideas that will help senior citizens from becoming a victim of crime.

1. Install dead bolts on all exterior doors.
2. Do not have your name and address on the mailbox (only have your address).
3. Use outside floodlights with a motion sensor, and use a porch light.
4. Your garage door opener should turn on the lights inside your garage.
5. Have motion detector lights on the driveway.
6. Have well-trimmed hedges, if you have them around the yard. The bigger, the easier for someone to hide.
7. Have a peephole in the front door.
8. If you do answer the door, and you are alone and become uncomfortable, then refer to another (imaginary) person who is not available (in the bedroom, etc.)
9. Your telephone answering machine message should state that you are away from the phone or busy, not that you are out of the house.
10. If you feel uncomfortable about who is at the door, then call **911. Do Not Answer the Door. Tell the person(s) you have called the police.**
11. Ask for some sort of official identification of any person who comes to your door. Employees who work for the utility companies, door to door vendors, pest control, lawn care persons, police officers, and all city, county, state and federal employees should be issued picture identification cards. They will not become offended should anyone require inspecting their credentials before opening the door. Refuse to speak with any person who claims to work for any public or private employer who cannot produce proper identification. Call 911 immediately to let the police meet with the person.
12. The Independence Police Department puts its citizen's safety first. Demand your landlord to install proper lighting, door locks, and to keep all shrubs that are in front of a window trimmed. Contact Lt. Anthony J. Lucas at 859-356-2697 to schedule a security survey conducted of your home, business or church. These surveys are free of charge.