



HOME SECURITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

FOR RESIDENTIAL CRIME PREVENTION

This checklist is intended to help you make a security survey of your own home. The first purpose of a home security inspection is to identify features in your home, or daily routines of your family, which might make your home an easy target for crimes. The security inspection should begin at the front of your home, covering the roadway, driveway and front yard leading to your front door. The security inspection will continue to the exterior (lighting, landscaping, gates, video surveillance) and lead to the interior of the home (door locks, window locks, home alarm systems). Each question on the checklist should be answered with a checkmark in the YES or NO column (leave blank if not applicable). Every No answer on the checklist indicates a potential for improvement in your home's security for crime prevention.

JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

HOUSE NUMBERS
Illuminated and clearly visible for first responders.

SECURITY CAMERAS
Should be visible as a deterrent, pointed to the front of the home and access points into the home.

SHRUBS AND TREES
Keep well trimmed to eliminate any hiding areas for criminals and clear views of your property for vigilant neighbors.

GARAGE DOORS
Should remained closed if not in the immediate area and utilize secondary locking mechanisms

GATES
Keep gates locked when not in use.

EXTERIOR LIGHTS
Bright lights with motion sensors may deter crime and increase visibility to the neighborhood.

EXTERIOR DOORS
Remained locked at all times with sturdy locking devices with strike plates screwed into studs.

WINDOWS
Windows should have a strong working locking mechanism or a secondary locking device.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors for a Crime Free Community"



MOUNTAIN HOUSE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
251 E. MAIN STREET MOUNTAIN HOUSE, CA 95391
(209) 831-2300
mhcsdcrimeprevention@sjgov.org



CRIME PREVENTION STARTS WITH YOU

The Mountain House Community has experienced a lower crime rate compared state and national statistics per capita. Residents have been drawn to the Mountain House Community to take advantage of the higher than average quality of life and extremely low crime rates. The men and women of the San Joaquin Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Rank Investigations and Protection are working hard at keeping the community safe but assistance from the community is key in preserving the community safe. There are a number of steps you can take immediately to harden the target and let the criminals know they are not tolerated in our community.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

First and foremost, it's important to be aware of your surroundings. Recognize what is normal in your neighborhood and what is not, and to report any suspicious activity immediately to the San Joaquin Sheriff's Department by calling 9-1-1 for emergencies or (209) 468-4400 non-emergencies. Additionally, you may call Rank Investigations and Protection for after hours non-emergency patrols at (209) 526-2025.

Protect Your Neighborhood :

- Get to know your neighbors!
- Join or become more active in your local Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Be on the lookout for unidentified persons or vehicles on your street. Note the time of day, along with descriptors of what you observe - e.g. color, make, model, and license plates of vehicles, height, weight, age, clothing, and ethnicity of strangers.
- Have the Sheriff's Department contact number at hand, or saved on your cell phone, and be ready to call.
- Keep ears and eyes open for unusual sounds or activities at your neighbors' homes.
- Be willing to take pictures of things you find out of the ordinary - your vigilance may provide crucial evidence in apprehending criminal activity.
- Do not be afraid to bother the deputies or police officers, they are depending on you to call!



CREATE A STRONG DEFENSE

Protect Your Home:

- Have friends or neighbors clear your newspapers and mail if you leave town. Have friends or neighbors check on your home periodically while you are away.
- When at home or away, keep all doors locked and windows secured with security latches.
- Secure side gates and backyard access with padlocks at all times.
- Request identification from any stranger that comes to your door, including utility workers, and verify *BEFORE* they enter your home!
- NEVER* let strangers into your home!

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Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked "No" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that your home is targeted.

EXTERIOR DOORS AND ACCESS	YES	NO
All exterior doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house, even if it's just for a few minutes.		
Doors are solid hardwood or metal clad.		
Door features wide angle peepholes at heights all family members may use.		
If there are any glass panels on or near the doors, are they reinforced so they may not be shattered and do they have window coverings to prevent seeing inside.		
All entryways have a working keyed entry lock and a sturdy deadbolt installed into the frame of the door with extended screws securing the strike plate to a stud.		
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor and not under a doormat, or planter, or in the mailbox.		
The overhead garage door has a manual locking device to prevent unauthorized opening and not relying on the power garage door opener for security.		
The sliding glass door has strong locking mechanism.		
The sliding glass door has a supplemental device to secure it (i.e. dowel, rod, pin or secondary lock) to prevent the door from being lifted off the track or moved aside.		
WINDOW SECURITY	YES	NO
Every window in the house has a locking device.		
Windows are always locked, even if they are opened a few inches for ventilation.		
Window vents, fans or AC units are secured to prevent a burglar from entering.		
Do the windows have coverings or blinds to prevent persons from seeing inside of the home.		
OUTDOOR SECURITY	YES	NO
Shrubs and bushes are trimmed and maintained to remove any hiding locations for subjects.		
Outside lighting, with or without motion sensors, covering the dark areas around the house.		
Every exterior door has a functioning and bright light mounted nearby.		
Floodlights are used for coverage of large dark areas (i.e. driveways, backyards).		
Outdoor lights are activated in the evening manually, by motion sensor or by photocell even if nobody is home.		
The house number is well lit or illuminated and free of obstructions so it is easily identifiable.		
All gates and sheds are secured with high strength laminated padlocks after every use.		
There is visible signage in the front of the home indicating the home is monitored by a home alarm system or video surveillance.		

VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY	YES	NO
Do you leave bicycles, toys or other valuable personal property unattended in view.		
Is the garage door left open when not in immediate use so the contents are visible to others.		
Do you have an itemized inventory of all valuables (electronics, jewelry, other misc.)in the home to include photos and serial numbers.		
Do you keep large amounts of cash in the home, if so do you advertise to others that cash is kept inside of the home.		
Do you keep important documents secured in a safe or secondary location.		
Do you have identifying markings on your valuables case they are stolen.		
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY MEASURES	YES	NO
Is a home security system in place containing door, windows sensors and motion sensors in main corridors of the home and is activated when leaving home.		
Do you have a video surveillance system covering the front of the home, all entrances into the home and can be monitored remotely.		
Is there a dog located at the home that can provide an audible or visible deterrence to prowlers.		
Do you post on social media when you are on vacation or away from your home.		
Do you leave instructions for delivery services (i.e. Amazon, UPS, FedEx) when you are not present to personally accept them.		
Is your car locked even if it is parked in front of your home or driveway.		
Have you hidden your garage door opener remotes in your vehicles and not in plain view.		
All firearms are stored in a manner (locked in a container, locking device or rendered inoperable) where they are inaccessible to children and prohibited adults.		
Mail, deliveries and newspaper service have been postponed or a responsible person was assigned to take care of them.		
Timers have been set to turn on lights or devices to indicate the home is occupied.		
A neighbor or responsible person has been asked to watch the home when away.		

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