



## ***Home Safety Tips***

*It is important for every resident to take an active role in the safety of all the people who reside in your neighborhood. Neighbors have to look out for each other. If your neighbor becomes the victim of a burglary then you are also a victim. You lose the sense of security you once had in your home. Please consider the following safety suggestions.*

- *Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize a Neighborhood Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other.*
- *Think about starting a “Mobile Patrol” that watches for crime around the neighborhood. These patrols are volunteer, and can be either conducted on foot or in personal vehicles that are identified as Neighborhood Watch. (You must first receive a background check from TPD, and attend training.)*

### **Vehicles**

- *Most thieves look for easy targets so keep your vehicle secure by keeping the doors locked and windows closed at all times.*
- *Keep valuables out of sight by locking them up in the trunk or by bringing them into your home. Even loose change can be a temptation!*
- *Use a vehicle Anti-Theft device such as the “CLUB”. It is a strong deterrent to auto thieves.*
- *Never hide a spare set of keys anywhere in your car.*
- *Never leave your car with the engine running. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to steal it.*
- *Park in a well-lighted area.*

## **Home Security**

- *Get in the habit of locking your door behind you even if you are only going to be inside for a minute.*
- *Install a peephole if you do not have one already. Utilize this before opening the door when someone knocks. If you do not know the person, don't open the door.*
- *Keep shrubbery to a minimum. Your front windows and door should be easily seen from the roadside. The same goes for shrubbery on the sides of your home. Tall bushes in front of a window can provide concealment for the criminal while he breaks into your home so keep your bushes below your window level.*
- *Document all serial and model numbers of your valuables on Operation Inventory forms. These forms are available online at [www.tampagov.net/police](http://www.tampagov.net/police) or through the District's Crime Prevention Unit. Operation Inventory is a crime reduction program designed to assist with the identification, recovery, and return of stolen property. Store this form in a safe location.*
- *Install supplemental locks on all doors and windows. An audible, monitored alarm is highly recommended.*
- *Install adequate lighting, burglars do not want to be seen.*
- *Don't leave your garage door open or items such as tools or lawn mowers outside.*

## **Personal Safety**

- *Know your surroundings and be alert.*
- *Have your keys ready when walking to your home or vehicle.*
- *If you feel threatened, yell for help and call 9-1-1.*

## ***How you can help your Neighborhood***

*You can improve the appearance of your community by reporting code violations such as inoperative vehicles, abandoned properties, overgrown lots, and illegal dumping to Code Enforcement, at 274-5545.*

**Always** *report suspicious behavior to the Tampa Police Department and give a good description of the vehicle (year, make, model, and tag) or persons (age, height, weight, and clothing) you suspect of illegal activity. Give their direction of travel.*

## **Important Phone Numbers**

*Police or Fire Emergency 9-1-1  
Police Non-Emergency 231-6130  
Crime Prevention Unit in District Two 931-6541*

*For more informative crime tips please visit the Tampa Police Department's web page at:*

*[www.tampagov.net/dept\\_police](http://www.tampagov.net/dept_police)*