BURGLARY PREVENTION

Chief Randy Scott and the Columbia Police Department are providing 10 simple tips to help you avoid becoming a Burglary victim:

1. Always lock your doors and windows. This includes your garage door
2. Keep your trees and shrubs trimmed. Don't let them block your view
3. If possible, install and maintain an alarm system
4. Have good exterior lighting
5. Outside lighting is an excellent deterrent
6. Get to know your neighbors
7. Never keep an ID tag on your keys
8. Keep a record of model and serial numbers for your valuables.
9. Have the CPD provide a *Free* Security Analysis for your home or business.
10. Start a Community Watch program. (Available for Business, Apartment and Residential communities)

Taking ownership of your community, whether it is business or residential, will build a stronger relationship both with your neighbors and the Columbia Police Department.

Businesses are affected with profit loss and a breach in the store's security which increases prices. Residents are affected from a loss of personal belongings and a breach in home security, which costs money, but more importantly it costs them a good night's sleep for fear of future intrusion. Establishing Business or Neighborhood Community Watch Programs will help build this bond. Actions such as simply reporting suspicious activity will help too. You can call the Columbia Police Department at (803) 545-3500 or CrimeStoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

For additional crime prevention tips, visit our website at www.columbiapd.net