

PRESENTATION BY CHANDLER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT  
Officer Daniel Chavarria

At the Annual Homeowners Meeting, on May 14, 2014, Officer Chavarria gave a presentation on home safety. The Chandler Police Department's website shows crime statistics, which for our neighborhood are at a very low rate. The investigations are primarily for property crimes – thefts or burglaries from unlocked or unsecured locations. Go to the “maps and statistics” link from the Police Department web page at [www.chandlerpd.com](http://www.chandlerpd.com), for specific statistics and historical information.

The best thing that homeowners can do is lock their homes and cars. Thefts from these places are typically “crimes of opportunity,” when open doors or windows leave items exposed. Remember the same thing when it comes to garage doors – be sure they are closed when you leave, or if you're working in the yard be careful of how long it is open without being watched. Also, don't forget to lock the door to the yard from the garage and the door into the house. Another forgotten “key” is your garage door opener – be aware of leaving that unsecured in your car (such as, unlocked in the driveway).

Many of the ideas the Police Department suggests are simple “fixes” that homeowners can do themselves. Keeping plants trimmed back so there are no “hiding places” next to windows, using plants that are “hostile” with thorns, using motion detectors on outdoor lights, and simple extra “locks” on sliding windows (thumb screw locks from the hardware store, wooden dowels or spacers on sliding doors or windows).

Another simple fix is to install padlocks on the electric panels and the gate to the back yard. These locks will discourage or slow down someone intending to cause trouble, and if emergency personnel need to have access they will have the tools necessary to cut the locks off.

While this isn't a local problem, there are other cities that share information about unknown people knocking on the front door. The current thinking by police crime prevention experts is that we should answer the door – not opening it to strangers – but talking through the locked door. If they need to make a phone call, offer to make it for them. Contrary to what solicitors may tell us, they do need to have a license from the City of Chandler – alert the non-emergency number at the Police Department if there are problems.

Another, “front page news,” type of break-in can be where doors are kicked in. Again, this is not a problem in our neighborhood or as a pattern across Chandler. The simple advice here is to install longer screws in the latch plate and door lock. But this is not the style for a “typical” burglary – it is a noisy way to get inside, which draws attention from neighbors or people driving by. If this happens while you are home, this is an “emergency” call to the 911 operator.

The best defense to these types of crimes is being aware of what is “normal” in the neighborhood. If someone is out of place, then pay attention to the details that will help the police identify that person – car type, color, license plate, a description of the person (comparing the person to a known object – height next to their car or outside your door). Do not confront them, but observe the details that will help the police do their job.

The Crime Prevention Unit will provide a free home security inspection to give individualized ideas. These need to be scheduled, so for further information go to their link off the Chandler Police Department’s webpage – <http://chandlerpd.com/safety/>.