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**THE SALEM CITY
CRIME PREVENTION
CONNECTION**

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Summer... Already?

June 2010



It's summertime and time for fun in the sun! Summer can be a time for enjoying the outdoors locally, traveling to a relative's home or for some, taking a trip to a distant city, state or even country. Enjoying your trip is what's most important so be sure to follow some basic safety steps to make sure your travels will leave you with fond memories instead of a nightmare of problems. Here are some easy-to-implement travel safety steps:

Before you go...

- ✓ Go through your home with a fine tooth *security* comb; lock up all your doors and windows. Don't forget to set light timers, notify trusted neighbors and make arrangements for your newspapers and mail to be picked up.
- ✓ If you are using mass transportation such as an air carrier, train or even a ship, be sure to have each item of baggage labeled appropriately with your contact information.
- ✓ Leave the fancy stuff at home! If you don't need it, don't take it! A valuable ring or heirloom necklace can become more of a burden and even a heartache when you take it traveling.

Lodging Security...

- Select a lodging option that you believe is in a relatively safe location. If you are not sure of the facility or the surrounding area, check some of the various trip advisors online or call the local chamber of commerce or visitor's bureau and get some general information about the area.
- If you feel the lodging option may not be safe, ask to see the room before you check in and be sure to check for appropriate locks on all doors and windows.
- Don't leave valuables in your room while you are out and about. Some lodging options provide safes in the room or at the front desk. Take advantage of the safes if you have any items of value that you are leaving behind.
- Lock up! Close and lock all doors and windows and be sure to use the extra security lock provided on most lodging room doors.

Out and About...

- Carry small amounts of cash and only one credit card when out and about and be sure to keep your wallet in your front pocket or if carrying a purse, loop the shoulder strap around your neck.
- Exploring somewhere for the first time? Do your research and find out what the area is like. Your lodging, the internet or even the local police department may be able to assist you with advice on where to go and not to go.
- Rental cars can at times be easy to spot and vacationers tend to have plenty of items in the car, making for the perfect target. Do as you would do at home and keep *all* items, regardless of value, in the vehicle's trunk.
- If out and about celebrating your vacation, and especially if you are alone, be cautious with leaving any beverage unattended and always know where it came from. You certainly wouldn't want an "additive" put in your drink that could affect your physical and mental abilities.

HOME SECURITY 101 Is Your Home a Jungle?

Plants and shrubs can add a lush and colorful appearance to the front of a home. However, as beautiful as the foliage is, it can have the unintended consequences of benefiting burglars and criminals.



Foliage that blocks the view of windows and doors can provide the perfect concealment for a burglar breaking and entering into your home (or worse yet, finding the preventable entryway - an unlocked door or window). Healthy, thick plant growth can also provide a place of concealment for someone hiding.

The remedy? Cut up and thin out! Make sure there is clearance between the bottom of the plants and the ground so you can see if your plants have suddenly grown feet; likewise thin the plants so that you can see through them so they don't create a visual barrier. Opening up your front yard by keeping your shrubs trimmed up and thinned out is a great deterrent and will allow us to better see your doors and windows when driving through your neighborhood.

Walk Safe

As an adult, many times we can become over-confident in our security and begin to become complacent about our own personal safety. The sad reality is that incidents of crime can happen to anyone at anytime.

However, the good news is that there are steps that we as adults can take to protect ourselves and help to prevent or deter criminals from preying upon us. It really begins with common sense and trying to imagine what would and would not be enticing for a criminal.



The average parent would never think of allowing their child to walk or go into an area that is known to be unsafe, but as an adult we may be more willing. The fact is, if it's unsafe for kids it's probably unsafe for adults!

Being aware of those around you is an excellent prevention step. Looking at persons walking by (instead of pretending not to see them) and acknowledging them with a quick "hello" sends a message of confidence and awareness, a turn-off for many criminals.

Take a phone! When out for a walk carry a cell-phone to call for help in the event of an emergency. Don't forget to pre-program in the direct telephone number to the law enforcement agency in each area you walk so that if you need help, you can talk immediately to the right agency and get help fast.

Walk with a partner; a four-legged one is great too! While crimes can happen to more than one person at a time, there is a greater crime deterrence when walking with a partner or dog.

Take only what you need. Carrying a wallet or purse full of credit cards, cash and other valuables just doesn't make sense and certainly creates an incentive for a thief. If on your walk you need to carry any money or credit cards, trying limiting it to one card or a small amount of cash that can be put in your pocket.

Kids look up to and learn from adults. Set an example when out and about by crossing the streets safely and legally. A child who sees their parent ignoring the laws or obvious safety steps will many times take that as their "permission" to do the same thing!

Direct Marketing - Staying Off The List

Even with governmental limitations and do-not-call lists, the telemarketers still seem to keep calling. Many are very legitimate organizations and are simply attempting to sell you a product or survey you for a particular product, opinion or issue and to solicit a donation. Telemarketers can be very enticing and sometimes are clearly aggressive in tempting you to provide information or purchase an item sight unseen.



Using common sense and simply NOT providing any personal information in response to a phone call from a telemarketer is your best protection!

However, if you do choose to proceed with learning more about their products, services or offerings there are some basic safety precautions you can take to help protect you from fraud. First, ask them to provide you with their business name, address and phone (any legitimate organization should be happy to provide this). Second, ask them to mail you information so that you can better decide if you would like to purchase, donate or support an issue. A legitimate telemarketer should have your contact information already so you should not be providing your address or any other personal information.

If you receive their information and you are considering purchasing a product or service, contact the Better Business Bureau in the city the business is located to determine if they have received any complaints about the organization.

There are also certain rules established by the federal government that regulate the operations of telemarketers. Specifically, they can only call between the hours of 8am and 9pm. It is illegal for them to call you if you are on the do-not-call registry and they must not misrepresent themselves. They are also required to let you know if this is a sales pitch at the beginning of their call.

Most importantly, don't hesitate to say "no thanks!" and hang up!

Do's and Don'ts

Don't:

- Provide any personal information, credit cards or banking information.
- Agree to purchase or donate until you have received information in the mail and you feel comfortable with your decision.
- Pay for any "prize" or send money to "increase" your chances of winning; these are scams and are most likely illegal.

Do:

- Talk to family and friends before making a decision if you are uncomfortable or are suspicious of the circumstances.

National Do-Not-Call Registry

To register your telephone number for the Do-Not-Call registry go to www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222.

The Monthly 2do List



Know your Neighbors



Do you know your neighbor? If not, take some time this month to introduce yourself and begin the process of determining who you feel comfortable with and who you trust. When you do have a solid, trusting neighborly relationship, share with them some important information to help keep your home safe.

First, let them know what to expect from you and your family such as the hours you are normally at work, who routinely comes to the house when you are not home (such as a house cleaning service) and what to look out for. Provide them with emergency telephone numbers of where you can be reached when not at home. If you have motion detection lighting, explain to your neighbors when they can expect it to go on and when they should be concerned.

For those neighbors that you have great trust in, ask them to pick up your mail and newspapers when you are gone on vacation or for an extended period. Invite them to park in your driveway during those absences to make it appear someone is home. Don't forget the garbage cans; ask your neighbor to bring them in after they have been dumped.



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