



Residential Burglary and Theft from Vehicle

Residential burglaries and thefts from parked cars are relatively common crimes in Plymouth. These crimes do not always occur at night! ***Many home burglaries and car break-ins also occur during the day.*** The police department is asking for the community's help in reducing this crime. Please keep a watchful eye out and call 9-1-1 *immediately* if you see or hear anything suspicious.

EXAMPLES OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

- People hiding from passing traffic or looking into cars
- An unfamiliar car parked in the neighborhood, especially at night or an unknown car slowly driving around the neighborhood several times without an apparent destination
- Unusual activity at a neighbor's home if you know they are not home
- People sneaking into garages, walking around a home, or trying doors/windows

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ✓ Keep a watchful eye out and **call 911 immediately if you see suspicious behavior.**
- ✓ **Lock all exterior doors to your home, including the garage service door, even if you are home.** Consider replacing regular strike plates with heavy duty strike plates.
- ✓ **Keep your overhead garage door CLOSED at all times.** You can secure inward swinging garage service doors with a 2x4 board placed into U-brackets bolted into the studs around the door.
- ✓ Keep ground floor **windows closed and locked.** For additional security, consider adding a dowel in the track to prevent windows from being lifted or slid open.
- ✓ **Keep your front lights on** at night. This increases the chances of thieves being seen. Photo-electric sensors, timers, or motion lights all work well.
- ✓ **If you are gone, make your home look occupied.** Keep shades in a normal position, put lights and TVs/radios on timers, have someone put out trash on the normal day and take it in again, collect mail/papers, and keep up with exterior maintenance: shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, etc.
- ✓ Consider keeping valuables in a **safe deposit box**, not in a dresser drawer.
- ✓ **Lock your car and do not leave valuables in your car.** Remember that GPS units, purses, any electronic device, stereos, tools, etc. are *all* tempting to thieves.
- ✓ If you are the victim of a theft, report the crime to police. *Reporting is important* to help identify patterns in criminal activity, which help police deal with the problem.
- ✓ If you would like to learn how to make your home safer, request a **free premise security survey** of your home. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-509-5147.
- ✓ **Record the serial numbers** of valuables or mark property with an **Operation ID** number. This will help return stolen property to the rightful owner. To enroll in Operation ID, call 763-509-5147.

In addition, police often get calls from concerned citizens about children being left home alone or playing unsupervised. Here are some guidelines for parents, from Hennepin County Child Protection Services.

If a child is improperly left alone, the child can be taken into protective custody by police and the parents can be charged with a crime. *Plymouth does offer "Home Alone" classes for parents and children who are ready to stay home alone!* Contact 763-509-5198 for more information.

Home Alone Guidelines

- Children under the age of 8 may not be left alone. They must be supervised by an adult or child age 11 or older.
- Age 8 or 9 may be left alone for normal latchkey hours (up to 2 hours)
- Age 10-13 may be left unattended up to 12 hours
- Age 14-17 may be left unattended up to 24 hours
- No child under 11 should babysit younger children

Guidelines apply unless the child does not know how to reach parents, the child is afraid, the child's basic needs are not met, the child has disabilities, or the child is involved in dangerous activities.

Curfew Ordinance

Under 12:

Weekdays: Home by 9:00 PM

Weekends: Home by 10:00 PM

12-14:

Weekdays: Home by 10:00 PM

Weekends: Home by 11:00 PM

15-17:

Weekdays: Home by 11:00 PM

Weekends: Home by midnight

Did you know?

There is a Curfew Ordinance in effect for children under the age of 18! Children must be home during the following hours. There are some exceptions to the curfew ordinance, such as older children going to and from work, school, or church functions or running errands at the direction of a parent. The curfew is lifted at 5:00 AM, seven days a week. If you see kids out late at night unsupervised, call **911**.

Are you having problems with your teen?

If you are having issues with your teenager (getting into fights, hanging out with the wrong crowd, "drifting away", getting involved in minor crime, like shoplifting), the Northern Star Diversion and Referral program is an option. It is a 5-week course to help kids get back on the right track. For more information, call 763-231-7242 or go to www.juvenilediversion.org.

Other programs of interest for neighborhoods:

Neighborhood Watch: Find out how you can create a partnership between police and your neighborhood to help neighbors come together, watch out for each other, report suspicious activity to the police, and make their community safer. For information on starting a Neighborhood Watch group, call 763-509-5198.



Night to Unite! Every year, the first Tuesday in August is a chance for neighbors to come together and throw crime a going away party! Register your party on the City of Plymouth website: www.plymouthmn.gov.