

A CALL TO JOIN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

During this holiday season, Marin County law enforcement agencies have responded to an increase in property crimes, specifically thefts and residential burglaries. This is not uncommon for this time of year, but we need the help of the public to make our communities safe.

On behalf of the Sheriff; the District Attorney and all of our local law enforcement agencies, the Marin County Police Chiefs are asking that all of our residents and business partners become active participants in enhancing crime prevention and reducing criminal activity. Our agencies are actively working together to facilitate information and resource sharing which will increase our effectiveness in combating these crimes.

We believe that an informed community, practicing sound crime prevention techniques is our best resource in combating this upswing in property crimes. Although it may sound cliché, you are our “eyes and ears” on the street. If an incident or activity within your neighborhood leads you to consider calling the police, call us. The mere consideration means that what you observed, heard, or otherwise sensed is not “normal” for your neighborhood and should be investigated further. There is absolutely no need to wait until an incident has resulted in a crime to call for an officer. Prevention of crime is our common goal.

During this holiday season (and all seasons) we ask that members of the public take the following crime prevention tips into consideration:

First, be aware of and in control of your surroundings. This relates to personal safety as much as home security. Regarding the home, ensure lighting is in good working order and illuminating pathways and entrances to your home. Maintain your yard in such a condition as to allow for good line of sight both from the street and from windows and doors. Ensure your address is clearly visible from the street or painted clearly on the curb.

Lock your doors (to include garage door, side doors, sliding doors, etc.) and windows when you are not home. One might even consider locking their doors when they are home. This applies to the car in your driveway or garage as well. Close and lock bathroom and bedroom windows, no matter what level of the residence they are on. Do not leave valuables in plain sight within your vehicle.

Second, communication between neighbors should be "the rule" and not "the exception." From personal contact on a daily basis to community meetings or e-mail lists, a neighborhood that communicates empowers the residents to police themselves. Neighbors who communicate with one another begin to develop a deeper sense of what is "normal" within their neighborhood. It is this "neighborhood expertise" that we, in law enforcement tap into when we are investigating an incident.

Finally, please report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency. We cannot do our job without the community's help. Most law enforcement calls for service begin with a call from a citizen. We need you to make that call...