

The men and women of the
Davie Police Department
are dedicated to providing
a safe community for all of our
residents, their families,
and our visitors.

For further information please contact

Davie Police Department

1230 S. Nob Hill Road

Davie, Fl 33324

www.daviepolice.com

(954) 693-8200

Davie Police Department



Crime Watch Program

Emergency -911

Non Emergency - (954) 693-8200

DAVIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME WATCH CHECKLIST



- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Do you feel safe in your neighborhood? | yes | no |
| Do you know who your neighbors are? | yes | no |
| Do you watch out for your neighbor's homes, when they are not home? | yes | no |
| Do you tell your neighbors when you are leaving for an extended period of time? | yes | no |
| Does your neighborhood have an active Crime Watch Program? | yes | no |
| Have you conducted a home security survey? | yes | no |
| Do you know what is suspicious activity? | yes | no |
| Are you comfortable calling the Davie Police Department? | yes | no |
| Do you know how to report suspicious activity or crime in progress? | yes | no |
| Do you know when to call 911? | yes | no |

CRIME WATCH PROGRAM

I. DEFINITION:

A program involving the joint efforts of the Davie Police Department and its community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's powers of observation and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

II. NEED:

In recent years, neighborhoods have experienced rapid changes. The old, well established neighborhood has been replaced by a highly transient, growing community where people seek more privacy and seclusion. This life-style tends to promote unfamiliarity with neighbors and a corresponding lack of concern. Consequently, this enhances the opportunities for the criminal element by increasing the community's vulnerability to crime.

It has been shown in communities where there is a strong bond between neighbors that the crime rate can be reduced by as much as 56%. Your participation is vital for the success of this program.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

Operation Identification is a program that makes valuables hard for burglars to dispose of by putting identifying marks on them. Also, these items can be traced back to you and, if a burglar is caught with them in their possession, the marked valuables constitute solid evidence that they are stolen.

Your Florida Driver's License number is the marking you should use for Operation Identification. The number begins with the first letter of your last name, followed by eleven numbers. Be sure to engrave "FL" before your license number. You can use an electronic engraving pen or a diamond-tipped pen to engrave your valuables in a place that cannot be dismantled, yet is visible for identification.

* Mark all your easily stolen valuables so they can be identified as yours.

* Some possessions you should mark are:

TVS	bicycles
stereos	golf clubs
fishing equipment	kitchen appliances
cameras	typewriters
binoculars	tools
guns	watches/clocks

For valuable items that cannot be marked, such as china, jewelry, antiques, etc., a photograph or video should be taken as part of your inventory, and kept in a safe place, like a safety deposit box.

9-1-1

9-1-1 is a universal computer-enhanced emergency telephone number. By dialing 9-1-1, you can immediately reach fire, police and medical emergency services. The computer then displays the address and telephone number of the caller and tells which fire, police or medical agency serves your area.

Some examples of when to dial 9-1-1:

- * FIRE OR SMOKE
- * CAR, PLANE, TRAIN OR BOAT ACCIDENT
- * SUSPICION THAT A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED
- * SOMEONE ENTERING OR AROUND AN UNOCCUPIED BUILDING.
- * A PERSON WHO IS INJURED OR ILL AND IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL OR HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Enhanced 9-1-1 saves time because your calls are automatically routed to the right agency. It is estimated that 40 seconds can be saved on the average call. 9-1-1 helps save lives and property by reducing the time it takes to report an emergency. Also, dialing 9-1-1 is easy to teach small children.

THE BURGLARY THREAT

Residential burglary is a chronic, nationwide problem that is growing. For it's victims, it is as costly as well as a potentially dangerous crime which can lead to other crimes.

Fortunately, however, you can prevent burglary because in most cases it is a CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY, committed by amateurs who are able to gain easy access to your home. You can eliminate the "opportunity" by making it as difficult as possible for a burglar to enter your home and therefore, a less inviting target to the potential criminal. Using the information from this booklet, you can avoid becoming a victim of a burglary or other crime. We sincerely hope that you work with law enforcement and your neighbors to help maintain the quality of life we are accustomed to here in Davie.

HOW TO REPORT

Law enforcement officers need to have accurate information as quickly as possible about a suspicious activity or crimes in progress.

- * Give your name, address and telephone number. (The dispatcher will ask you this even if you call on 9-1-1 in order to confirm the information.)
- * Describe the event in as brief a manner as possible. Give the who, what, when, where, why, and how?
- * Tell if the crime is in progress or if it has already occurred.
- * Describe the suspect, if known. What sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, accent, beard or mustache, and distinctive characteristics or clothing.
- * Describe the vehicle if one was involved. What color, make, model, year, license plate, special markings, dents, which way did it go?

REMEMBER....REMEMBER....REMEMBER....REMEMBER

- * Do not reveal your name, phone number or other personal information to unknown callers.
- * Don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not at home.
- * Never give out information that you are alone or when you will be away.
- * Instruct your children on how to handle these situations.

COOPERATING WITH YOUR POLICE

Preventing crime in your community is a cooperative effort between you and your local police department. As we have pointed out in this brochure, you must do your part by acting as your police department's EYES and EARS. When communicating or working with your police department follow these important points:

1. Tell the police only what you really know or have actually observed. If you are only estimating or generalizing, tell the police you are.
2. DO NOT exaggerate your experience or observations, keep them as factual as possible.
3. Make yourself available for interviews, attend police line-ups and don't be afraid to identify the suspect - but, BE SURE OF THAT IDENTIFICATION.
4. If after you have been interviewed by the police, you remember or think of something about the crime or suspect that you did not tell them, IMMEDIATELY WRITE IT DOWN and call the police. Remember the information you give the police may be one of the few things they will have to work with.
5. Testify in court. Fully cooperate with your state attorney. Your testimony is vital in many cases for the conviction of criminals.

BECOME INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED

BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH PROGRAM. REMEMBER TO APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THIS CRIME WATCH HANDBOOK. BY DOING THIS YOU WILL MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER, SAFER PLACE TO LIVE.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

An important responsibility of Crime Watch members is to report anything suspicious to the Davie Police Department. Look for:

- * Someone running from a car or home.
- * Someone screaming. If you can't determine why they are screaming, call the Davie Police Department and report it.
- * Someone going door-to-door in the neighborhood or looking into windows and parked cars.
- * A person who has no purpose wandering in the neighborhood.
- * An unusual or suspicious noise that you can't explain, such as breaking glass or pounding.
- * Vehicles moving slowly, without lights, or with no apparent destination.
- * Property being removed from a closed business, or residence known to be occupied.
- * A stranger in a car stopping to beckon to a child.
- * A child resisting the advances of an adult.
- * Business transactions conducted from a vehicle or merchandise offered at an unrealistically low price.
- * A stranger entering a neighbor's house when occupied.
- * Anyone loitering in a parked car.
- * Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gasoline from a car.
- * A stranger carrying appliances, luggage or other bundles from a neighbor's home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why does it take longer for officers to respond to some calls than to others?**

The length of the response time depends on several variables. The time of day the call comes in, the sheer volume of calls at a given moment, the number of officers needed at a given moment, the number of officers needed at a given call, and the urgency of the call all have an effect on response times for calls of service. All requests for police services are assigned a priority based on the seriousness of the incident and the potential for injury or damage to property. At times, calls of a less urgent nature are delayed so that officers can respond immediately to emergencies. At other times, there is no delay at all to even non-priority calls. We appreciate your patience and understanding if you happen to call at one of those times when the responding officer is for one reason or another delayed in arriving to your call.

2. **Why don't I see more officers patrolling my neighborhood?**

At any given moment of the day or night, there are many more officers in your community than you see. The officers driving marked patrol cars are just some of the officers in your neighborhood. There are also plain clothes detectives, undercover officers, K-9 officers, school resource officers, traffic enforcement officers, bicycle patrol officers, supervisors and other officers servicing your neighborhoods that you may not see or readily notice. Many times the officers are patrolling your neighborhood during the peak times of criminal activity which may be when you are at work or asleep.

3. Why do the 911 dispatchers ask so many questions when I call?

Dispatchers are trained to get as much information as possible to best determine the nature of the problem and its seriousness. On emergency calls, the officer is most often already in route to the scene while the dispatcher is still getting additional information from the caller. That information is being radioed to the responding officer while he or she is driving to the scene of the call. So just because the dispatcher is asking questions of the caller doesn't mean that the officer is not on the way yet.

4. We have a big traffic problem in our neighborhood. What can be done about it?

This has been one of the most common questions asked of the police department. We do try to make traffic enforcement a priority when citizen's concerns are brought to our attention. Traffic violations lead to traffic crashes, personal injury, and property damage. We appreciate that you bring your concerns for the safety in your community to the Davie Police Department's attention. Together we are making tremendous progress in addressing traffic violators in all communities. If you have specific traffic problems in your area, you may contact our Traffic Unit at 693-8372.

5. Can I call the Davie Police Department to report a problem and still remain anonymous?

Yes, you can. There is no requirement to give your name and address when making a call to the police department. It is extremely helpful if the responding officer has someone they can contact either in person or by phone to get better details or more specific information about the problem in order to be able to effectively address the problem.

HOME SECURITY SURVEY

Most burglars are opportunists looking for an easy target. Securing your home makes it less "attractive" to the burglar. Check out your home from the burglars point of view.

- yes no 1. Do exterior lights illuminate your home?
- yes no 2. Is shrubbery kept trimmed back so a burglar can't hide near windows and doors?
- yes no 3. Are garage doors closed and locked at all times?
- yes no 4. Are exterior doors made of solid core construction?
- yes no 5. Is there a peephole (180 degree) on the front door?
- yes no 6. Are sliding glass doors secured with auxiliary locks or pinned and has the track been modified to prevent the removal of doors?
- yes no 7. Are exterior doors secured with a dead bolt lock with a minimum of 1" throw?
- yes no 8. Are windows secured with auxiliary locks?
- yes no 9. Are doors locked at all times?
- yes no 10. Do you report suspicious persons or activity in the neighborhood to the police immediately?

If you answered yes to all of the above precautions, you have greatly decreased the likelihood of being burglarized.