

# BE READY St. Clair County

## *Theft Prevention*

### AVOID AND PREPARE FOR BURGLARIES:

- Do not allow strangers in your home, even if they say they are hurt. Lock the door and call the police.
- When you move into a new home, change the locks.
- Use highly visible alarm decals, beware of dog, or neighborhood watch decals on sliding glass door and windows.
- Get to know all your adjacent neighbors
- Invite them into your home and establish trust.
- Agree to watch out for each other's homes
- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy.
- Use exterior lighting to allow 100- feet of visibility.
- Use infra-red motion sensor lights.
- Always keep doors on your home and vehicles locked.
- Use a safe to store valuable and important documents.
- Deter theft with visible alarm system signage.
- Identify your valuables by engraving your drivers' license number.
- Photograph and record the serial numbers of all valuables.
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other documents & store the copies in a safe deposit box or with a relative.



By far, the most common threat to our home is burglary. According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. The US Department of Justice reports that An estimated 3.7 million burglaries occurred each year on average from 2003 to 2007 and about 7% involved some form of violent victimization. Offenders were known to their victims in 65% of violent burglaries. The majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work or school. The summer months of July and August have the most burglaries with February having the fewest crimes. Damaging or removing a door was the most common type of entry in forcible entry burglaries. Residents who were present in 18 percent of unlawful entry burglaries stated that someone inside the home let the offender in. Twelve percent stated that someone inside opened the door and the offender pushed their way in. (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov>)