

“Building OUR Future with a Stronger Partnership”

Greetings:

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office wants to work closely with the businesses, residents and property owners to discourage criminal activity in our communities.

While we would all like to think of this place as being Mayberry, where Aunt Bea's yearly jarred pickle competition is the hottest topic around, we all must understand who we are dealing with i.e. unreasonable and dishonest people, “Criminals.” It is commonly known criminals lack rational thinking, mostly due to their affliction with illicit drugs, which somewhat controls their actions.

Bad guys look for an easy target in a target rich environment. “The haves” vs “The have nots.” We all would rather think that bad guys will not come into our communities and neighborhoods, but in reality, the thoughts of the criminals are; the nicer the community, the more valuables are present.

The community becoming a partnership with local law enforcement, will eventually be one of the best deterrents towards criminal activity. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office wants to have open and routine dialogue with the citizenry in order to impact criminal activity.

The first part of banding together is making it difficult for the criminal to steal. There have been burglaries where nothing was stolen. Why? The valuables were not left out and/or were secured.

Helpful ideas:

- 1) Lock up your most valuable jewelry***
- 2) Bolt heavy and lightweight safes to the floor and walls
(Heavier the better)***
- 3) Do not leave windows or doors unlocked or open***
- 4) Set your alarm***
- 5) Don't leave valuables in your car, in plain view,
unsecured, saying "Take Me!!!"***
- 6) Hide your keys to secondary vehicles***
- 7) Keep weapons for protection, but secure them in safes or
hidden in the canned goods or cabinets where the
suspects are less likely to look***
- 8) Tell your neighbors to look out after your property and
report ANYONE seen***
- 9) Leave some lights on in & around your property***
- 10) While gone, leave a radio/TV on (low volume) on a
talk show station***
- 11) Close garage doors even when home, criminals do
canvas neighborhoods looking for target rich
environments, such as: seeing your expensive cars, golf
clubs, ATVs inside the open garage door***

Even as good people, we need to **“Think like a criminal.”** Why or why not would you pick a house or a business to burglarize or rob? What are day time burglars doing and thinking?

Take it from a detective with over 26 years of experience, who have driven around with the criminals while they confessed, the steps criminals take to commit a burglary of a residence are as follows;

- 1) They are burglars because they **want to** steal without confrontation
- 2) They don't want any witnesses
- 3) They wear gloves to offset the chances of leaving print evidence behind
- 4) They carry pry bars, flat and out of sight, down the inside of their pants
- 5) They knock at your door to see if the house is vacant (or not)
- 6) They search for an unlocked door, if one is not found they pry open the easiest back door
- 7) Once inside, they go directly to electronic equipment that is in plain view
- 8) They proceed to the master bedroom where they find most of the valuables, jewelry on bathroom counters or in a jewelry box on the center of the dresser
- 9) They look in the master bedroom closets for safes or weapons/firearms easy to carry
- 10) They are in and out in 5 minutes or less
- 11) Most of the time criminals utilize stolen cars, rentals & friends vehicles to commit burglaries and robberies.
- 12) Suspect(s) after committing a burglary/robbery will drive to any number of the **“We buy Gold”** companies around town only to turn jewelry into instant cash
- 13) Then they go to a drug dealer, trade the weapons and other valuables for drugs as well
- 14) They then go get high!
- 15) The next day or that evening they do it all over again

*Hear this, *“Convincing yourself..... that a bad idea is a good idea, is a bad idea!”**

It is a **“bad idea” not to report** someone coming to your door or suspicious activity next door, down the street or a car not normally seen on your street, parked on the street or in your neighbor’s driveway. Witnesses/citizen’s/neighbors may be able to make particular notice of the descriptions of the suspicious person(s) or suspect(s) or vehicle(s), to include license plate if possible and call the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. It is your eyes and ears that will surely notice what is suspicious and any circumstances which are **“out of place”** in the community you live. We as law enforcement know what is suspicious to us, but the local community members are far better at knowing what’s suspicious in their own neighborhoods.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) is requesting that community members immediately report suspicious activity. We are on wheels, we are mobile, 24/7 and we yes we make house calls. If it is the pool guy, a repair man, a friend or foe, we want to make contact with them. Deputies and citizens alike will agree, “It is better to be safe than sorry” attitude.

The people of this community are a significant extension of our eyes and ears. We need your help “Now” more than ever. With the epidemic drug use and population growth, the criminals will target the nicer communities.

With this being said, we (MCSO) would like to have open communications with the community that we serve, on day by day endeavors and concerns. We have set up a system, other than media and newspapers, which will notify people in the community of ongoing scams, burglary suspect information; new ways bad guys take from good people and what to watch out for. We anticipate a much higher solvability of these types of crimes being committed, which translates to providing better cases to the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office for charging. The Sheriff’s Office strongly believes this combined effort of both concerned & aware citizenry along with deputies who stand willing to place their own lives on the line, will make our community a safer place to live.

To register for notifications go to <http://www.cavecreek.org/> then click on the E-Notify button. Customize the way you would like to be notified, either through e-mails at home office or cell phone or even text messages on your cell phone. It is that simple.

For review;

An example: *Burglars knock at the front door or ring the homeowner's doorbell during the middle of the day. Why? The reason they announce is only to see if anyone is home, before they decide to break in. Many times people are at home and when they (potential victims) answer the door, the burglar will ask for directions or where a particular street is located or for a person by name. When the victims answer, (no matter what the answers are) the bad guy walks away and nobody calls deputies. The homeowner just witnessed an attempted break-in into their property. If not for the victim answering the door, the bad guys would have surely burglarized the home. Now, these same criminals will go to the next house or nearby neighborhood and find a home where they don't receive an answer at the door. When Law enforcement receives a call by the person/witness, we will IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO YOUR STREET/ADDRESS, we will notify all HOA's & community watch groups who are able to send out a blanket notification in reference to be on the watch for a certain type of activity. See Below...*

This notification would be something like this: ***"The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is looking for two men and one woman going to homes asking for directions and particular names of people that don't live there, they were last seen driving a red Cadillac 2 door with a white vinyl roof, bearing personalized Arizona License Plate UBEN-HAD."***

Meanwhile, we would be conducting an investigation into contacting & apprehending these criminals. We would also be putting out an attempt to locate (ATL) to our deputies and neighboring police agencies in hopes of catching the suspects in the act.

The Maricopa County **Attorney's** Office will always file the strongest case we have against those committing crimes across the valley and the best are those crimes in progress, where the bad guy is caught “*red handed.*” Some crimes may seem rock solid on the surface and the bad guy may even admit to the criminal activity, but the County Attorney may only use it as an aid to prosecution or utilize the information if it comes to a plea-agreement.

- Example: *A Deputy stops a bad guy with stolen property from a burglary in his vehicle. It would be reasonable to believe that the subject committed the burglary, but the County Attorney will normally only charge “Possession of Stolen Property,” or a lesser crime.*
- *We must have evidence placing the subject at the scene either by physical evidence or an eye witness placing him/her in the residence/business.*

Thought to ponder:

We all know we have to put razor wire on our taller built fences (we have purposely raised out of fear), security lighting bright enough to come with disclaimer warnings as the leading causes for most skin cancers, bars across the windows and doors with heavy dead bolts, cameras mounted at every angle to ensure a captured glimpse of persons coming and going from the residence or business and alarm systems both audible and silent. I don't know about most, but we have just described a prison. It is a PRISON that we all live in, while the bad guy's runs amuck, like the scenes from the latest Dark Knight Batman Movie. {Let's go on the offensive & together we can make a difference.}

But in all seriousness, we need to band together, creating circumstances that will insure the best deterrence and take preventative measures to keep our wonderful community safe and free of radicals who target our community.

Business owners

Business owners may wish to (think about) placing cameras in **obvious locations** and even **cameras in not so obvious locations**, which will be of quality to allow apprehension and prosecution of criminal suspect(s). One obvious set is to deter and the others are to capture. Business owners may want to install bars or barriers on their windows to deter the criminals and place other hard devices that would make it too much trouble for the criminals to make an attempt on their businesses.

Item's to consider:

- 1) Businesses not leaving cash in the cash drawers or registers
 - a) Leave the cash box open and empty if it is in view of the windows or not
- 2) Keep windows, glass doors and counter tops clean when leaving for the day
 - a) This is to assist Law Enforcement with collecting evidence

Continue to consider:

- 3) Security alarms monitored and unmonitored
 - a) Monitored alarms should notify Maricopa County Sheriff's Office first not the Responsible Party (RP)
- 4) Take a photographic inventory of all valuables
 - a) If in the event you become a victim it will give all agencies a clear record of the item we are looking for
- 5) If you have cameras, they need to be of good quality and the recording device secured secretly
 - a) A picture says a thousand words, one being "Guilty!"
 - b) Recording device should be date/time stamped (accurately as possible)
- 6) Keep your property and landscaping trimmed
 - a) So neighbors/police can see an intruder or suspicious person(s) by windows or doors & sides of structures
- 7) Invest in a safe, large enough not to be hand carried away and ensure its bolted to the floor
 - a) The benefits of taking charge of securing your valuables and keepsakes are many
 - b) Most insurance pass on a cut rate insurance cost due to the security measures taken
 - c) In case of fire, a safe will prevent further loss of valuables and keepsakes
- 8) Be Aware of your Surrounding's...
 - a) Be Suspicious... No one knows your neighborhood better than you! So ask yourself?

- Who is that walking in the neighborhood or near your business late at night or early in the morning
- I've never seen that car on our street before
- A vehicle has never been parked there before, take note
- Why is your neighbors front door or window open

MCSO has a few more suggestions for those who are seasonal visitors or go on vacations and/or leaving their home for extended periods of time.

- 1) Be sure to lock all doors and windows
- 2) Talk with your neighbors and friends (who you trust) to keep that watchful eye on your home, most burglaries are done in the middle of the day
- 3) Be sure to stop the paper deliveries, have neighbors take fliers off doors, keep the front of your home or business clean
- 4) Come to the MCSO substation to complete a vacation watch, so we are aware of your absence and can help conduct routine patrol watch of your residence or business which may ward off criminals casing the homes on your street.
 - a) The patrol watch will also give us Responsible Party information if we need to contact the property owner

Witnesses are extremely valuable and sometimes become the most valuable link to an investigation. For those who wish to remain anonymous, please keep in mind that we will make every effort to solve the case without the use of a witness who fears testifying or doesn't wish to be involved, even if it means dismissing a case to protect our citizens. The criminals feed on fear and if we stand for justice they are known prey on those who show fear and avoid authority.

Your MCSO District deputies and detectives believe strongly in serving our community. To this end, we are dedicated and feel strongly that if we work together we can make a major difference.

Be Aware, know your Surroundings and Watch-Out for others, this is OUR Community!