

BURLESON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

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Community Resource Officer
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Phone Numbers You May Need

All area codes are 817 unless otherwise specified

City of Burleson Numbers:

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Non-Emergency.....	426-9910
STOP Taskforce	558-2667
City Hall	447-5400
Code Compliance	426-9875 / 426-9972
Fire Department.....	295-5498

Police Department:

Administrative Matters	426-9910
Alarm Coordinator.....	426-9907
Crime Prevention	426-9958
Victim's Assistance	426-9901
Records	426-9924 / 426-9923
Crime Stoppers.....	1-800-794-8477



Working With The Police

What Number Do I Call?

9-1-1 If it **IS** a life-threatening emergency
426-9903/ 9904 If it is **NOT** a life-threatening emergency
426-9910 For general information

What Do I Need To Tell Them When I Call?

- ♦ **What** happened?
- ♦ **When** did it happen?
- ♦ **Where** did it happen?
- ♦ **Who** did it?

Suspect Description:

Race/sex
clothing
height/weight/hair color
other identifying marks/traits

Vehicle Description:

color/make/model/year
license plate number
direction of travel
other identifying features

Do I have to give my name, address or phone number?

No; however, it is helpful to have that information in case we need to re-contact you for additional information.

Will the officer stop and talk to me?

Not unless you specifically request it. If you want to talk to the officer, tell the dispatcher when you call in.

Don't Just Call ... Call With Information



Communication Tree

Neighborhood Watch Calling Guide

Call Burlison Police first (either 9-1-1 or non-emergency 817-426-9903/ 9904), then call the Neighborhood Watch Captain. Remember:

- If you call the next person on the tree and you get no answer or an answering machine, keep the tree going by calling the next level!
- When you get to the bottom of the tree, the person on the bottom must call the Captain to tell them the message. This call ensures accuracy!

Captain	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Co-Captain	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Co-Captain	
Name:	
Address:	
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Frequently Asked Questions by Neighborhoods

Why does it take so long for an officer to respond when we call the police?

Calls are prioritized and considered as emergency, urgent, or routine according to the seriousness of the situation:

Emergency — Any life threatening calls with great possibility of death or serious injury, or any confrontation between people which could threaten the life or safety of any person. These calls

Urgent — Any crime in progress which might result in a threat to injury of a person, or major loss of property or immediate apprehension of a suspect. Also includes accidents with no injuries, but the vehicles are blocking the roadway.

Routine — Includes calls where there is no immediate threat to any person or property and there is no apparent possibility of immediate apprehension of a suspect. Also includes non-injury accidents where the involved vehicles have been removed from the roadway.

Can I shoot someone if they are trying to break into my house, or do I wait until they get inside, and then shoot?

This is a very complicated subject. Use of force is generally illegal and is allowed only within very narrow limits. You should also realize that there are a number of other legal risks involved in your choice to use force.

Terms defined:

Deadly force is force that is intended or known by the actor to cause, or in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing, death or serious bodily injury.

A **Deadly Weapon** is a firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted, for the purpose of inflicting death or serious bodily injury; or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

Non-deadly force is anything less; for example, punching or shoving someone. There are four situations that the use of force against another person is “legally justified,” and each has specific guidelines that must be met to avoid criminal liability:

- Self-defense
- Defense of another person
- Prevention of certain crimes
- Law enforcement

According to the Texas Penal Code (9.31/9.32) a person is justified in using deadly force in self-defense if they knew or had reason to believe that someone unlawfully **and with force** entered, or was attempting to enter unlawfully **and with force**, the person’s occupied habitation, vehicle, or place of business or employment. In general, we recommend that you call 9-1-1 and allow the Police Department to take action,

reserving the use of force for times when it is necessary to stop immediate threats. The decision to use deadly force is particularly grave and should be weighed carefully, preferably before you decide to arm yourself.

For more information on rights to defend yourself and your property, you can visit the State of Texas website:

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/SOTWDocs/PE/htm/PE.9.htm>

If something is happening and I don't know if it is considered an emergency, will I get in trouble if I call 911?

No. Actually all calls go to the same operators, but since they have fewer emergency lines, they will ask you to hang up and call back on the non-emergency phone number (which they will give you) so the 911 line can be cleared immediately. If there is an emergency for another agency or area, they will take the information and transfer your call.

If I call and complain about a neighbor or someone on my street, do I have to give my name, address and phone number if I fear retaliation?

No. However, it is helpful to have that information in case we need to re-contact you for additional information. If you want to actually file a complaint and have a report taken, you **do** have to give your personal information.

Why does the helicopter keep flying over my home or in my area when nothing is happening? Should I go out and motion them away because they have the wrong house?

While the City of Burleson does not have a helicopter, we do occasionally receive assistance from Fort Worth. The police helicopter responds to calls by orbiting the scene of the call, causing it to fly over streets and houses that are not directly involved in the police activity. The spotlight can also illuminate areas not directly involved due to the width of the light beam. When looking for criminal activity or persons on the ground, the light may shine on your home. You may want to stay inside, lock your doors, and turn on exterior lights if it appears the activity is in your neighborhood. You may call police dispatch and inquire about the helicopter's activity in your area. Your call may be placed on hold while the operator is obtaining the information.

I have speeding cars on my neighborhood street. What can we do to slow them down?

There are two programs that can help you deter this type of activity.

- **Neighborhood Speed Watch** — This program is a citizen-involved activity in which neighborhood residents collect vehicle and speed information to allow identification of,

and warnings to be sent to speed limit violators on residential streets. Notices will be sent by the assigned Community Resource Officer to the registered owners of the speeding vehicles, encouraging them and other drivers to please watch their speeds on residential streets.

• **Speed Trailer** — The Speed Trailer is available to neighborhoods on a registration basis only. The trailer “clocks” the speed of the approaching vehicle and posts it for the driver to see. It is a visual warning device. To find out more about this program, please call your assigned Community Resource Officer.

What about recreational vehicles?

Scooters

Children commonly use these human powered devices. Operators must follow the same rules of the road as pedestrians. The riders are subject to traffic control signals at intersections, crosswalk rules, must use sidewalks when available, and ride facing traffic when no sidewalks. It is legal to ride them on private property, sidewalks, or crosswalks.

Bicycles

Bicycles are considered vehicles and must follow all rules of the road, except those which cannot by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle. At nighttime, bicycles must have a white light to the front and red light or reflector on rear. It's legal to ride these on the roadway; however, you must ride on the right side and obey all traffic laws.

Transportation Code Chapter 551.

Moped

This is a motor-driven cycle that is equipped with an engine that produces no more than two horsepower and is less than 50 cc's, has no gears, and cannot attain a speed of more than 30 mph in one mile. Operators must have a driver's license (restricted class M), registration, and insurance. It may drive on the roadway and must obey all traffic laws.

Transportation Code Chapter 551.

Mini-motorbikes / Pocket Bikes

These are self-propelled vehicles equipped with an electric motor or an internal combustion engine with a displacement of less than 50 cc's, designed to propel itself with not more than two wheels in contact with the ground, has a seat or saddle, and is not designed for use on a highway. They are not authorized on any highway, road, or street, bicycle path, or sidewalk.

Transportation Code Chapter 551.

Motor Cycles (more than 250 cc's)

These are motor vehicles that have a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and are designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. Riders must have valid drivers license with motorcycle (M) endorsement, registration,

inspection, helmet (with exceptions), and insurance. Motorcycles are permitted on the roadway and must obey all traffic laws as any other vehicle on the roadway.

Transportation Code Chapter 661.

Off Road Recreational Vehicle (ATV)

This is a motor vehicle that is designed primarily for recreational non-highway all terrain travel. It has 3 or 4 tires, a saddle for the rider (and a passenger if so designed), and designed for off-highway use by the operator only. It is permitted on private property with no legal requirements, but the operator is subject to laws concerning Driving While Intoxicated, reckless driving, and accidents. ATV's may be operated on public property if the operator holds a Safety Certificate or is under the supervision of an adult who holds a safety certificate. Persons younger than 14 must be under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian. All occupants must wear a helmet and eye protection if the ATV is operated on public property. ATV's may not be operated on public roadways (except to cross).

Transportation Code Chapter 663.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle / Golf Cart

A neighborhood electric vehicle may be operated only on a street or highway for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less. It may cross a street with a posted speed limit greater than 35 mph. The operator must be licensed if the vehicle is operated on a roadway.

Transportation Code Chapter 551.

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device

A two non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person that is self balancing and propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts or one horsepower. They may be operated on sidewalks and roadways with a speed limit of less than 30 mph if there is no sidewalk or when directed to do so by a traffic control device or law enforcement officer.

Transportation Code Chapter 551.

Fines for Class C violations range from \$0 to \$500.

Burleson City Ordinances

Go to <http://www.burlesontx.com/>

Click on "Code of Ordinances" on the home page

Click on "Code of Ordinances" on the Ordinances & Resolutions page

Scroll down the left side of the screen to find what you are looking for;

I.E.- Chapter 58: Parks and Recreation

Chapter 78: Traffic and Vehicles (Parking)

Suspicious Activity...What is it?

Suspicious activity is any activity that is questionable. In your neighborhood you know the "normal" type of activity that takes place. Suspicious activity is anything that just doesn't look right.

What to look for:

- Cars/trucks driving slowly cruising streets.
- Do these cars/trucks fit the area?
- Do the drivers fit the area?
- What are the driver's actions?
- Does the home/business look to be occupied?
- Does the driver appear to notice what you are doing?
- Does he/she display too much interest in what you are doing?

Okay, now you see something going on and you want to report it.

If it is just something that looks out of the ordinary, call the non-emergency number at **817-295-1187**.

If you have just **WITNESSED** someone breaking into a home (i.e., breaking a window, prying open a front door, etc.), you would call **9-1-1**.

Keep in mind, 9-1-1 is for calls that are an emergency. The non-emergency number will still connect you with our dispatchers, but allows the 9-1-1 phone lines to remain open for true emergency calls.

Information Needed by Police

Physical description of Person/Persons:

- Height
- Weight
- Age
- Hair color
- Eye color
- Facial hair (beard, mustache, goatee, etc.)
- Scars/Tattoos
- Clothing worn (shirt/tie, jeans, t-shirt, trousers, jacket, sandals, tennis shoes, boots, hat, etc.)
- Sex
- Ethnic background (Black, White, Hispanic, Indian, Asian, etc.)

Description of Vehicle:

- Year
- Color
- Make (Ford, Chevy, Dodge, etc.)
- Model
- Color of vehicle

- How many doors
- License plate number (including state)
- Special markings (pin striping, mag tires, unusual paint job, vinyl top, rims, etc.)
- Direction of travel

Method and Direction of Escape

Location:

- Yours
- Suspicious person's

Brief description of his/her activities that make them suspicious.

Suspicious Activity Concerning Persons

Activity	Possible Crime
Going door-to-door in a residential neighborhood.	Possible "door knock" burglary suspects
Waiting or loitering in front of closed business or unoccupied houses	Possible burglary suspects or trespassers
Forcing entrance into an unoccupied home	Possible burglary or theft suspects
Person carrying property, especially if running or at an unusual hour	Possible suspect fleeing from scene of a crime
Screaming or loud voices	Possible rape or assault
Loitering near schools or parks	Possible sex offender
Items or services for sale at very low prices	Possible stolen property or fraudulent scheme
Heavy traffic to and from a specific residence on a regular basis	Possible drug or stolen property operation
Person acting unusual	Possibly ill or on drugs
Continuous repair operations at a non-business location	Possible stolen property being altered
Forcing entry into a locked vehicle, especially in a parking lot	Possible theft of car or its contents



Suspicious Activity Concerning Vehicles

Activity	Possible Crime
Driving slowly and aimlessly through a residential neighborhood	Possible burglary suspects or sex offender
Parked, occupied vehicles; especially at unusual hour	Possible burglary suspects or sex offender
Vehicle driving at night without lights	Possible burglary suspect
Person being forced into vehicle	Possible kidnapping, assault or attempted rape
Abandoned vehicles parked on your street	Possible stolen car
Objects thrown out of a vehicle	Possible disposal of contraband
Business transaction being conducted out of a vehicle	Possible sale of drugs or stolen property
Vehicle parked in front of an unoccupied home or closed business being loaded with valuables	Possible burglary of theft in progress
Vehicles being operated with a cracked steering column or screwdriver in the ignition switch	Possible stolen vehicle
Sound of breaking glass	Possible burglary or theft

Home Security

DECALS & STICKERS: Mark your valuable possessions and post "Operation ID" decals on your windows. These, and other warning stickers, are deterrents to burglars.

MAILBOX: Your mailbox should be located so it can be seen and observed by your neighbors. Put only your street address on the box, not your name.

WIDE ANGLE VIEWERS: Put a peephole in your front door and USE IT. Never open your door to a stranger. Make sure the eye viewer gives you at least 180 degrees of visibility.

GARAGE DOOR: Keep it closed and locked. This helps protect valuable property stored in your garage and prevents access to interior doors to the house. An open garage is an invitation for a burglar.

GARAGE WINDOWS: Garage windows should be locked and reinforced with mesh screening. They should be covered with shades or blinds so a burglar cannot look inside for possible loot or for an indication of someone being home.

STORAGE SHEDS: Storage sheds or outside buildings should be securely locked. Any tools or equipment which could help a burglar break into your house should be locked in the shed or in a locked garage.

ARCADIA DOORS: Secure your patio doors, too. A broomstick, dowel, or finger operated lock can help. A pin-type lock or a key is better. Two or three screws in the overhead track will reduce the chance of lifting the door out of the track.

FENCES: Fences make it harder for a burglar to carry away large items, but are only effective if the gates are locked. Gates should always be locked.

WARNING SIGNS: A sign indicating an alarm system has been installed, that a dangerous dog is present, or other warning signs can be a good deterrent. To be effective signs must be of sufficient size to attract attention and be in a conspicuous place.

PERIMETER LIGHTING: All sides of your home should be protected by security lighting. Attractive, low-wattage lighting may be an effective way to keep intruders from getting interested.

SIDE AND REAR WINDOWS: Windows that cannot be seen from the street because of location or fences are a favorite place of entry for burglars. These windows must be locked with secure locks. They may require the use of iron bars, grills, or special burglar resistant glass or plastic panes.

ROOF OPENINGS: All skylights, roof vent openings or any other potential ceiling entrance should be reinforced with metal bars or heavy screens.

OUTSIDE: Trim back shrubbery that hides doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb into second story windows. Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well-lighted. Help keep your neighborhood in good shape. Dark alleys, litter, and run-down areas attract crime.

KEY SENSE: Do not hide house keys in mailboxes, planters or under doormats. Give a duplicate key to a trusted friend or neighbor in case you are locked out. Do not put any personal identification on key rings. Leave only your ignition key with service mechanics and parking garage attendants. If you lose the keys to your home or move, change the locks immediately.

ANSWERING THE DOOR: Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. A short chain between the door and the jamb is not a good substitute because it can be broken easily. Don't open the door to anyone you do not know without first verifying that person's identity.

ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE: Don't give any information to "wrong number" callers. Ask what number they were dialing. Check references of any person calling about a survey or credit check before volunteering information. Offer to call the person back instead of responding immediately. Hang up immediately on any threatening or harassing calls. If the caller persists, call police and the phone company.

GOING AWAY? *Burglars hope to avoid confrontations, so make your home look occupied!* Leave lights on and the radio playing, preferably a talk show, when you go out. Keep your garage door closed and locked. Use inexpensive timing devices to turn inside lights and radio on and off at different times. If no one will be at home for more

than a few days, arrange to have someone pick up the mail and newspapers. Have deliveries stopped or sent elsewhere.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME:

- Plan your trip and give the itinerary with emergency phone numbers to a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Place identification tags on the inside and outside of your luggage. Use your first initial and last name only.
- Install good locks on your doors and windows and be sure to use them.
- Remove all exterior “hidden” house keys.
- Make sure all valuables are engraved with your driver’s license number and expiration date.
- Make a record of your credit card and travelers check numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail, newspaper and packages on a daily basis. You can also stop delivery of both for the time you will be gone.
- Make arrangements to have your lawn watered and mowed.
- Use timers for interior lights and radios. Make your house look “live in.”
- Give your local law enforcement agency the dates that you will be out of town. As time permits, they will conduct extra patrols of your neighborhood.
- Make arrangements for the care of your pets.
- Purchase a prepaid phone card.

Operation Identification is a citizen’s burglary prevention program for use in homes. The Operation ID program involves the marking of property with an identifying number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, Operation ID has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

Physical Force

- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Never point a gun at anything you don’t intend to shoot.
- Unattended guns should be unloaded, have a trigger lock put on, and locked away.
- Avoid using alcohol and drugs when handling guns.

Safe Gun Handling

- Don’t take for granted someone’s word that a gun is unloaded—check it yourself.
- Know your weapon thoroughly.
- Know all safety features and their location.
- Know how to disassemble and reassemble your gun.

Operation Identification

The Operation ID program has two basic parts:

FIRST...

Mark your valuables with your driver's license number so that your property can be easily traced and identified as yours. **Please note:** If your driver's license number is your social security number, we strongly recommend you obtain a new license with a new number; **or**, obtain an Identification Card that has a generic number and does not expire.

Mark property as follows:

TXxxxxxxx 03

(license number & year of expiration)

Engrave in two locations; one that can be easily seen and one that cannot.

SECOND...

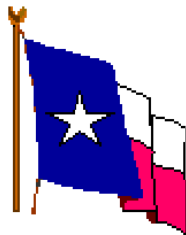
Display a sticker that tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked.

What makes Operation Identification so effective?

Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or resell. It can be traced to the rightful owner with relative ease. And, if the burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

After marking your property, make a list of your valuables and keep a copy of the list in a safe place. If you should become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from the list. This will be of great help to the police in their attempts to recover the stolen possessions.

Once property has been marked and a list made, display the Operation Identification sticker on doors and windows which could be used for entry. By advertising your participation in Operation ID this way, you are announcing that your valuable property has been marked and that it will be difficult for the burglar to resell. Often the presence of the sticker alone is enough to deter a burglar. Burglary is the most frequently committed crime in the United States. By participating in Operation ID, you are taking one important step to protect your possessions from burglary and theft. There are many other crime prevention anti-burglary precautions you can take to protect your home, property, business and family. For further information contact your local law enforcement agency.



Locks

DOOR HINGES

Many homes have doors which open to the outside, exposing the hinge pins. Despite your good strong lock, the burglar can remove the pins and lift the door from the frame. There are hinges which have non-removable pins or hinges containing set screws to prevent pin removal. To prevent this, remove two opposing screws from each leaf of the hinge. Screw a lag bolt into the jamb, sawing off the head. Or use a headless nail, leaving ½ inch of the nail or bolt protruding. Drill out the opposite hole in the jamb leaf. Do this to both top and bottom hinges. When the door is closed the hinge pins may be removed, but the door will remain firmly in place. If the hinge screws do not line up with each other do the following:

1. Drive the pin into the frame just below the hinge.
2. Drill a hole in the edge of the door.
3. The hole should be larger in diameter than the pin.

This is good protection for any door, regardless of how the hinge pins have been installed.

SECURING ATTIC CRAWLWAY OPENING

Reason for security of crawlway opening: Several burglars have made easy entry into homes by crawling up into the attic then kicking down through the ceiling causing damage, plus what they steal.

Mark these items:

Install a 2x2 board cut the length of opening and secured with 3" to 4" screws. This will prevent cover from being raised on this end (A). Frame supporting cover should be 1x4 boards for proper strength (B). Cover board should be at least ½" plywood (C). Heavy duty hasp and padlock secured with bolts and nuts, **not screws** (D). When the crawlway opening is not installed inside the home or storeroom, it should be secured by other means. Secure the crawlway with the following:

1. A solid wood or plywood cover.
2. Two hardened steel hinging hasps, or hinge one side of the door from the inside and put a hasp on the other side.
3. One or two case-hardened padlocks.

SECURITY STRIKE PLATE

The strike plates on all exterior doors should be anchored with screws 2 to 3 inches long so they reach well into the stud. This will make it extremely difficult for a thief to kick the door open.

LATCH BOLT DOOR GUARD

The latch door guard for that added protection against forced entry attempts. It mounts to the door with four heavy-duty bolts.

LOCKS

The spring latch lock is a privacy lock and should not be used for security. It offers no protection. The bolt can easily be slipped by a plastic credit card, fingernail file, or thin bladed knife. This is the same type of spring latch lock; but with the addition of a "deadbolt latch," it offers better protection against being slipped if installed correctly. However, this lock offers little protection against being forced because the burglar simply twists the doorknob off with a pipe wrench or vise grips.

DEADBOLTS

It is highly recommended that all exterior doors be equipped with a good quality deadbolt lock. A deadbolt should have the following:

1. A solid, case-hardened steel cylinder guard; a rotating cylinder guard is even better.
2. A bolt that protrudes at least 1 inch.
3. Case-hardened fasteners to hold both pieces of the lock securely to the door.

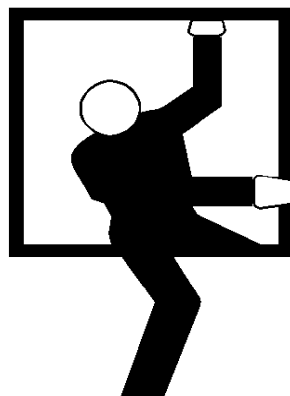
Another excellent lock is the rim lock or vertical deadbolt. It comes in single or double cylinder varieties and features two vertical deadbolts that slide into hardened metal hasps attached to the door jamb. This type of lock cannot be slipped, forced with a wrench, or pried open. Another type of rim lock utilizes a large, horizontal, sliding bar. It is less expensive than other types but equally effective. However, both of these locks are only as strong as the screws that attach them to the doorframe.

CASEMENT WINDOWS

Casement windows secure best when the latch works properly and the window shuts tightly. Removing the window makes it harder on the thief if he should break the glass to open the window. Drill a small hole through the latch frame and the latch handle. A metal pin or small padlock can be inserted, locking the latch closed.

SLIDING WINDOWS

There are several types of anti-slide locks available for securing sliding windows. Metal pins, screws and lag bolts can also be used. Do not use a lock that is difficult to remove on a window that is an emergency exit. Install wood screws in the upper track above the window. The screw heads should just clear the window, allowing it to slide, but not lift. A wood dowel the appropriate diameter can be used in place of the screws. The dowel should be the same width as the sliding portion of the window.



Residential Security Survey

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked “no” indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home’s security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Exterior Doors Do all exterior doors have deadbolt locks with a 1-inch throw?			Outdoor Security Shrubs and bushes are cut to the lower edge of the window, so you can see the window clearly.		
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.			Trees are cut 6-7 feet off the ground, so no one can use them to hide behind.		
Doors feature wide-angle peep-holes, with at least a 180 degree angle, at heights everyone can use.			Do you leave a front porch or carport light on all night, or use motion sensor lighting?		
If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so they cannot be shattered.			Are gates to the backyard secured?		
Do all exterior doors have security strike plates with at least four or more 3-inch screws?			Is the circuit box secured?		
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox.			If you have any access to your attic from outside, is it secured?		
Garage and Sliding Door Security The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.			Is your address visible from the street during the day and night?		
The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.			Do you have any “hidden” keys? Remove them if you do. Burglars know all the hiding places!		
Garage doors are closed when not in active use.			Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked with high-security laminated padlocks.		
Sliding glass doors have an anti-lift device or plate and an additional locking device.			Grills, lawn mowers and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed.		
A dowel or pin to secure a sliding glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.			Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar or quality padlock and chain; and are always locked, even if we leave them for a minute.		
The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.			Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.		

Vehicle Security

Though professional car thieves have entered the field in increasing numbers, most cars are still taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. You can greatly increase your protection against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions.

LOCK UP

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. ***Lock up whenever you leave your car, and take the keys with you. A majority of vehicles that are burglarized in Burleson are left unlock.***
- Lock the trunk and/or tailgate.
- Close all windows -- professional thieves have tools that help unlock cars through a minimum of open space.
- When you park the car, remove the radio face, GPS or other valuable possessions from the car. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat of your car. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.

PARK CAREFULLY

- Avoid leaving an auto unattended in public parking lots for an extended period of time. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or an attended lot.
- If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car -- and your home. If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, only leave the ignition key.
- At night, park in well-lighted areas with pedestrian traffic.
- Whenever possible, turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, making it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.
- Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight. These are a favorite means of entry for car thieves.
- Have keys ready to open car door quickly.
- Ask security officers to escort you to your vehicle; especially at night.

OPERATION I.D.

- With an electric engraver, etch your Texas Driver's License number preceded by the letters "TX" on CB radios, tape decks and other removable items.
- Record your vehicle identification number (located on a small metal plate on the dashboard of newer cars) and store it in a safe place.

USE "ANTI-THEFT" DEVICES

- When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
 - Interior hood lock and release.

- A second ignition switch or “kill switch” which prevents electrical current from reaching coil distributor.
- A fuel switch which prevents fuel from reaching the carburetor.
- A locking gas cap.
- Locking devices for batteries, wheels, decks, etc.
- An alarm device which will activate a siren, horn or lights -- or all three -- to frighten the thief away before he is able to steel your car. *Avoid a security system with an override feature.*

HEAT Program

(Program defunded and no longer in effect.)



How to be “Streetwise” and Safe

Knowing how to protect yourself — and joining with your neighbors to make your streets safer places to be — can reduce the opportunity for muggers, purse snatchers, and other street criminals to strike.

3 Basic Rules:

- **DO** stay alert. Keep your mind on your surroundings, who’s in front of you and who’s behind you. Don’t get distracted. If you’re worried about crime, ask a friend to accompany you when you go out.
- **DO** communicate the message that you’re calm, confident, and know where you’re going. Stand tall, walk purposefully, and make quick eye contact with people around you.
- **DO** trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

When Walking in Your Neighborhood:

- Plan the safest route to your destination and use it. Choose well-lighted busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, or construction sites. Take the long way if it’s the safest.
- Know your neighborhood. Find out what stores and restaurants are open late and where the police and fire stations are.
- Make sure you know where your children are going when they go out and encourage them to play with other kids. Show them safe places in the neighborhood where they can go if they ever feel scared.
- Carry your purse close to your body and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat or side trouser pocket, not in a rear trouser pocket.
- Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.
- Don’t overburden yourself with packages and groceries that make it hard to react.
- Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- If you suspect you’re being followed by someone on foot, cross the street and head for the nearest well-lighted, populated area. Walk quickly or run to a house or store to call police. If you are really scared, scream for help.
- If you are being followed by someone in a car, change direction immediately and make a visible point of writing down the license number.

In The Car:

- Keep your car in good running condition to avoid breakdowns.
- Drive with all car doors locked. Keep windows rolled up whenever possible.
- Park in well-lighted areas that will still be well-lighted when you return. Lock your car doors.
- If you are being followed while driving, drive to the nearest police or fire station, open gas station or other business, or well-lighted residence where you can safely call police. Try to get the car’s license number and description. If no safe areas are near, honk the horn repeatedly and turn on your emergency flashers.

Jogging, Biking and Other Outdoor Activities:

- Choose routes in advance that are safe and well populated.
- Vary your route and schedule.
- Avoid jogging and biking at night.
- Know businesses that are open and locations of police and fire stations.
- Consider carrying a shriek alarm.
- Consider **not** wearing your stereo headphone. It's safer to be alert.

What If It Happens To You?

- Remain calm; try not to show any signs of anger or confusion.
- If the attacker is only after your purse or other valuables, don't resist. You don't want to escalate a property crime into a violent confrontation.
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of your attacker; age, race, complexion, body build, height, weight, type and color of clothing, tattoos, piercings, etc.
- Call the police immediately, identifying yourself and your location. Contact your local victim assistance agency to help you deal with the trauma that all crime victims experience. They can also help you learn about victim compensation laws and how to follow your case's progress.

Take Action Today

Help reduce opportunities for street crime in your community.

- Make sure street lighting is adequate and parks, vacant lots, and alleys are free of debris and graffiti.
- Get together with your neighbors and local law enforcement to start a mutual protection program like Neighborhood Watch.
- Try to make sure teens in your community have a place for their energies — a cleaned up park, recreation center/areas, community tasks.
- Volunteer to escort a friend or neighbor who goes to work or class at night.
- If you see a crime being committed, call the police immediately and stay with the victim until the police get there. Be supportive and offer to accompany the victim to the hospital or police station. How would you feel if you needed help and no one volunteered?



Curfew

Burleson City Ordinance B-662

It is an offense if a minor (under the age of seventeen) remains in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the city during curfew hours.

A parent or guardian of a minor commits an offense if the parent or guardian knowingly permits, or by insufficient control allows, the minor to remain in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the city during curfew hours.

The owner, operator, or any employee of an establishment commits an offense if the owner, operator, or employee knowingly allows a minor to remain upon the premises of the establishment during curfew hours.

Curfew hours are from 11:00 PM to 06:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and 11:59 PM to 06:00 AM on Friday and Saturday.

It is a defense to prosecution under Section 12-121 that the minor was:

- (1) accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian;
 - (2) on an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, without any detour or stop;
 - (3) in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel;
 - (4) engaged in, going to, or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop;
 - (5) involved in an emergency;
 - (6) on the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence or abutting the residence of a next-door neighbor if the neighbor did not complain to the police department about the minor's presence;
 - (7) attending, going to, or returning home from, without any detour or stop, an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the City of Burleson, a civic organization, a school district or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor;
 - (8) exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly; or
 - (9) married or had been married or had disabilities of minority removed in accordance with Chapter 31 of the Texas Family Code.
- (B) It is a defense to prosecution under 12-121(C) that the owner, operator, or employee of an establishment promptly notified the police department that a minor was present on the premises of the establishment during curfew hours and refused to leave.

Penalty:

A person who violates a provision of this Section is guilty of a separate offense for each day or part of a day during which the violation is committed, continued, or permitted. Each offense, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500

Credit Information

Free Credit Reports (Annual)

Web: www.annualcreditreport.com (*Do not access through pop-ups or email.*)

Telephone: 1-877-322-8228

Mail: Standardized form must be used. (Download at www.ftc.gov/credit)

Send to: Annual Credit Report Request Services
P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

To Protect Your Personal Information:

To “opt out” of receiving pre-screened credit card offers, call:
1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688)

To remove your name from direct mail lists:

DMA Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

To remove your name from calling lists:

DMA Telephone Preference Service
P.O. Box 1559
Carmel, NY 10512

Send your name, address and telephone number to the above addresses or visit www.dmaconsumers.org for more information.

To remove your e-mail address from many direct e-mail lists, visit www.dmaconsumers.org

To place your name on the national “Do Not Call” list:

Call 1-888-382-1222

Web: www.donotcall.gov

Remove Your Name from Sweepstakes Lists:

Readers Digest Publishers Clearing House

Call 1-800-310-6261 Call 1-877-379-3377

Web: www.rd.com Web: www.pch.com

To report Identity Theft:

Call the Federal Trade Commission toll-free number, 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338)

Write: ID Theft Clearinghouse, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20580, or Web: www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Call the Social Security Number Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271; Web: www.ssa.gov

Call each of the three credit bureaus listed below and request a “fraud alert” be placed on your account.

Equifax

www.equifax.com

Call: 1-800-685-1111

Write: PO Box 740241

Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

1-800-525-6285

Experian

www.experian.com

Call: 1-888-EXPERIAN

(1-888-397-3742)

Write: PO Box 2104

Write: PO Box 2104

1-888-397-3742

TransUnion

www.tuc.com

Call: 1-800-916-8800

Write: P.O. Box 1000

Chester, PA 19022

1-800-680-7289

Write: Fraud Victim Assistance Division

P.O. Box 6790

Fullerton, CA 92634