



Lawrence Police Department Crime Information Bulletin June 30, 2009

In the past several weeks the Lawrence Police Department has received reports of more than a dozen burglaries in the area generally west of Inverness Drive and north of Clinton Parkway. The majority of the burglaries were to automobiles parked outside residences, some of which involved damage to the vehicle when the suspect(s) broke a window to gain entry. Access was also made to garages through open doors or when the suspect located a garage door opener in the vehicle and used it for access. In a few of these burglaries, the suspect(s) entered living areas of the home while the occupants were asleep. On June 9th, 2009, Lawrence officers arrested a suspect believed to be responsible for numerous burglaries in that area. The following steps can reduce the chances of your home or vehicle being burglarized:

- Remove all valuables from your vehicle before parking it outside overnight. Purses, wallets, checkbooks and electronics are frequent targets of theft. If valuables must be left in a vehicle, place them in the trunk or completely hidden under a seat.
- Stereos with removable faceplates should have the faceplates removed nightly.
- Garage door openers should NOT be left inside vehicles parked outside your home. When a thief locates your garage door opener, it gives them potential access to your home.
- Lock your vehicle and do not leave ignition or spare keys inside the vehicle. Those burglarizing your vehicle will often steal the entire vehicle if given an opportunity.
- Utilize proper lighting to adequately illuminate the exterior of your home.
- Keep your garage doors closed and locked whenever you are not in the garage or front yard.
- Be aware of your surroundings and immediately report any suspicious activity to police.

Burglars do more than steal!

Burglars can commit robberies and assaults if they are surprised by someone coming home or they pick a home that is occupied.

- If you come home and something looks questionable- a slit screen, broken window or open door- don't go in. Call the police from a safe location.
- If you are in the home and think someone is breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call police.

The Lawrence Police Department is working to proactively identify crime patterns and help educate you in how you can combat crime in your neighborhood. To report crimes in progress call 911. For non-emergency assistance call police dispatch at 832-7509. Rewards may also be available through CrimeStoppers by calling 843-TIPS, for information leading to an arrest. For crime prevention information please call the Community Services Division, Neighborhood Resource Officers at 830-7410.