

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, January 21, 2013

The City of Norfolk, as well as surrounding areas and towns, have seen an increase in commercial burglaries and thefts. Several have been reported to area law enforcement. Below are some tips for burglary and theft prevention:

Exterior:

- Adequately light all exterior sides of your business (including alleyways) and the parking lot, using vandal-resistant fixtures. As most store burglaries occur at night when it's dark, lighting serves as one of the most important deterrents.
- Install an alarm system and check it regularly for failure. Post conspicuously a notice that shows you have an alarm.
- Secure all roof openings, air ducts, skylights, air conditioning units, hatchways, doorways, and basement openings.
- Do not provide concealment or climbing platforms for the burglar. Clear and maintain all debris, weeds, and shrubbery away from windows and doors. Lock up ladders and tools that could make a burglar's job easier.
- Issue as few keys as possible and change the locks if keys are lost or not returned by a former employee. Do not tag keys with the name of your business. Keep a log of the keys you issue.

Interior:

- Keep a minimum of cash on the premises. Leave cash registers empty and open after hours.
- Move valuable merchandise and business equipment such as computers away from the windows or doors to prevent smash and grab thefts.
- Arrange window displays so that passerby's and police are able to see into the store.
- Anchor your safe to a well-lit, highly visible location. Keep all valuable documents and items, including company vehicle keys, in a safe.
- Always leave an interior light that is visible from the street on. If for any reason it is off, the darkened store will arouse suspicion.
- Do not lock a burglar inside when you leave. Inspect all closets, bathrooms, and other hiding places before closing. For personal safety, try to have two people present at both opening and closing.

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