

The Police Report



January 2011
Southern Shores, North Carolina



A New Years Resolution to Keep!



The holidays are almost over and a new year is beginning. Now is the time to make a New Year's resolution to protect your home and to safeguard all those fabulous presents that you got for Christmas! January is the perfect time to make a record of all of your valuable items and keepsakes with their identifying information. Statistics show that an overwhelming majority of people will be the victim of a property crime at least once in their lifetime. There are many ways to protect yourself from becoming one of those statistics. However, if you ever should fall victim to some type of property crime (Burglary, Robbery, Larceny...), there are also ways of improving the odds of having your property recovered.

So often when property is reported lost or stolen, the case is closed before it has even begun because the owner has no way of positively identifying the property if it is recovered. The easiest and simplest method of ensuring the return of your property is to record the property information (make, model, serial numbers..) for positive identification. Stolen and lost property can be tracked nationwide through the Division of Criminal Information. However, this information can only be entered into this database with complete and accurate information.

The Southern Shores Police Department has a form available to you to record the information that law enforcement requires to properly identify your property. For items of property that do not have serial numbers (ie. jewelry, tools, etc.), an owner applied number such as a driver's license number or date of birth may be used. The OAN should be permanently affixed to the property. The Southern Shores Police Department has an engraver which is available to its citizens for this purpose. It is also recommended that still photographs or video be taken for further identification. The Southern Shores Police Department also has a video camera which can be used for this purpose. Contact the police department to set up an appointment and an officer will assist in the recording of your personal belongings.

This is a simple but effective way of assisting law enforcement in their efforts to protect your home and property. If you have any questions about this form or any other methods of protecting your home, please call us at 252-261-3331.



Lock It Up!



On the Outer Banks, we have enjoyed the privilege of living in an area with a low crime rate but that same privilege has lulled us into a false sense of security. There is crime in Dare County and most of it is crime of opportunity. While we are still relatively free of violent crime, property crime is on the rise. In that moment that you run out to the store or step in to pay for your gas, a thief will seize the opportunity of an unlocked door or window and make you a statistic. Please remember to lock your doors and windows in your homes and in your cars, not only during the holiday season, but all year round. Locking your door is a good habit to get into and having to take the time to unlock your door is not as inconvenient as having to file a theft report with the police department. Make a New Year resolution to Lock It Up!

Home Security Checklist

Exterior Doors

- ✓ All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes.
- ✓ Doors are solid hard wood or metal-clad.
- ✓ Doors feature wide-angle peep holes at heights everyone can use.
- ✓ If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- ✓ All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- ✓ Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

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.
- ✓ The over head garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- ✓ Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- ✓ The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock. A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- ✓ The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

- ✓ Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- ✓ Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

Outdoor Security

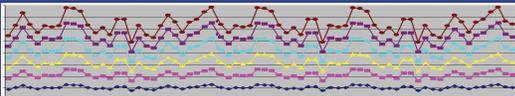
- ✓ Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- ✓ There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- ✓ Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- ✓ Flood lights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- ✓ Outdoor lights are on in the evening-whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- ✓ Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

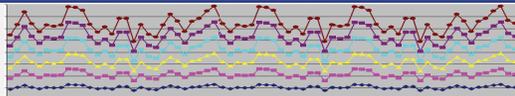
- ✓ At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.
- ✓ The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- ✓ Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor or friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- ✓ A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

- ✓ Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- ✓ Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- ✓ Grills, lawnmowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- ✓ Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- ✓ Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- ✓ Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- ✓ Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.
- ✓ Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.



Statistics 12/2010



| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|-----|
| Total Offenses..... | 37 | Stop Light/Sign..... | 05 |
| Breaking & Entering..... | 10 | Registration Violation... | 01 |
| Larceny..... | 17 | Seat Belt..... | 01 |
| Damage to Property..... | 03 | Left of Center..... | 02 |
| Fraud..... | 01 | Other..... | 04 |
| All Other..... | 06 | | |
| Arrests..... | 03 | Ordinance Violations..... | 00 |
| Breaking & Entering..... | 02 | Accidents..... | 02 |
| Larceny..... | 01 | | |
| Citations..... | 11 | Calls For Service..... | 707 |
| Speeding..... | 01 | Alarm..... | 15 |
| Expired Registration..... | 01 | Assisting Other Agency... | 13 |
| Inspection Violation..... | 01 | Business Check..... | 167 |
| Stop Sign/Light..... | 04 | Residence Check..... | 208 |
| Other..... | 04 | Traffic Stops..... | 47 |
| Warnings..... | 26 | | |
| Speeding..... | 07 | | |
| Equipment..... | 06 | | |

(For more details, see Crime Reports at
www.southernshores-nc.gov)

Interesting Facts

April 12, 1870

Jacksonville, Florida, Officer William Johnson becomes the first African American police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

courtesy of www.nleomf.org



§ 14-381. Desecration of State and United States flag.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and knowingly to cast contempt upon any flag of the United States or upon any flag of North Carolina by public acts of physical contact including, but not limited to, mutilation, defiling, defacing or trampling. Any person violating this section shall be deemed guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. The flag of the United States, as used in this section, shall be the same as defined in 4 U.S.C.A. 1 and 4 U.S.C.A. 2. The flag of North Carolina, as used in this section, shall be the same as defined in G.S. 144-1.

(Have a flag you need to dispose of? Take it to the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department and they will dispose of it properly!)

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