

# Crime Prevention Newsletter

by the Tallahassee Police Department

## Residential Burglary

**Residential Burglary is a crime of opportunity, and all too often that opportunity is provided by the resident themselves. Burglaries are committed by criminals that for the most part, have little or no skill and are looking for an easy target. If you can delay a burglar's entry for 5 minutes they will probably leave and victimize someone else. In Tallahassee, a residential burglary occurs once every 4 hours.**

**What is a burglary?** A Burglary is defined as entering or remaining in a dwelling or a structure with the intent to commit an offense therein.

**When do the majority of burglaries occur?** Most residential burglaries occur during the day when the victim is away from their residence. Remember the individuals committing this type of crime have little or no skill, so they are looking for the chance to make a quick score and leave without a confrontation.

**How do they break into a house?** It's sad to say that most of the time they get in through an unlocked door or an open window, or they use bodily force to gain entry.

**What kind of property do they like to steal?** Their favorite targets are money, firearms, jewelry, TV's, and computers.

### **What can I do to make my home safer?**

- Make certain that when you leave home that all your doors and windows are closed and secured. Do not hide a key on the outside of your residence because burglars can use it.
- Make your home looks occupied while you are away on vacation or out of town. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your house while you're gone and leave an emergency contact number with someone. Stop your mail and paper.

- Trim the shrubbery around your house so that your neighbors can see into your yard.
- Use see-through type fencing around your backyard to limit easy access to the back of your house.
- Check to make sure that the locks on your windows and doors work properly. If they do not, have them repaired or replaced.
- If a door or doorjamb has been damaged during a previous burglary that unit should be replaced with a new unit. *Do not repair it in an attempt to save money. That unit has failed once and it will fail again.*
- If you are moving into a new house or apartment, have the locks re-keyed so the doors can not be opened with the same key. Some burglars use a master key or a key they obtained from the previous owner.
- Garage doors should be kept closed at all times. Garages equipped with automatic openers should have the security code reset after installation to prevent unauthorized entry by someone using a remote control on the factory setting.
- **Call Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at 891-4251 to schedule a FREE Residential Security Survey.**

