



# CITY NEWS

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## **\*\* News Release \*\***

### WPD launches burglary prevention project

Department encourages citizens to be more aware of burglary potential

The Wichita Police Department has launched a burglary prevention campaign that is designed to increase public awareness of burglaries, it was announced today by Patrol North Bureau Commander Captain Jeff Easter and Burglary Section Lieutenant Barry VonFange. The timing of the project, said VonFange, is important.

The summer months are more inviting for burglars. As citizens open up their homes and leave their garage doors open burglars often take advantage of those opportunities to break into residences and steal personal property.” To prevent this, VonFange reminds citizens to secure their homes and be aware there’s always someone willing to break in to steal their property.

“If you have ever locked yourself out of the house, you may have found yourself walking around the exterior of your home looking for the easiest way in. Burglars do the same thing. They look at your doors and windows and your garage door. Those often provide burglars with an opportunity to break into a person’s house. By simply locking your doors and windows and keeping your garage door closed you can prevent your home from being burglarized.”

Open garage doors are often a problem if they’re left open, said VonFange. “It only takes a moment for a burglar to enter your garage. While they’re there, they can take tools and law equipment, steal the garage door opener out of your car, even enter your home then or come back later.”



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VonFange said the most common items burglars take are lawn mowers, tools, tool boxes, TV sets, game consoles, DVDs and DVD players, laptops and jewelry.

“Summer time is also a time when many people take their vacations,” said VonFange. Before you leave, set timers on interior lights, cut your grass and take a few minutes to contact your nearest Wichita Police substation and let the clerk know you would like to make a ‘vacation report’. Information provided in the report will be given to the officers who patrol your neighborhood.

“Also, tell your neighbors you’re leaving and ask a trusted neighbor to check your house each day to make sure it’s secure.”

Burglary prevention is worth the effort, said VonFange. “In 2008, the FBI estimates citizens in the U.S. lost about \$4.6 billion to burglars. You can do your part to make sure you don’t add to that number.”

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