

Even though today's lifestyles sometimes make it difficult to be as neighborly as we'd like, being a good neighbor is one of the best ways to prevent crime.

- Get to know your neighbors and discuss your concerns about safety in the community.
- If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call the police immediately.
- Exchange work and vacation schedules with a neighbor you trust so you can keep an eye on each other's homes.
- Never tell a stranger or an individual you don't trust that a neighbor lives alone, is ill, or is not at home.
- Report any nonworking street lights to the utility company immediately.

AND FOR ADDED PROTECTION...

- If you keep very valuable possessions in your home or live in an isolated area, investigate the benefits of an alarm system. Be sure to check the company's references.
- Join Operation Identification and mark all valuable property. Compile an inventory, using photos or videotapes if possible.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street and the alley, if you have one, to help police and fire departments respond to emergency calls.
- Don't include your address in a classified ad and don't announce plans for a party or vacation in the local newspaper.
- Find an unpredictable place to hide valuable items, like a movable floorboard, under logs in the woodbox, or among cleaning supplies under the sink.
- Keep a secure safe. Install burglar and smoke alarms.
- Take out homeowners' insurance to protect yourself against financial loss.

TAKE ACTION – TODAY

1. Call Harris County Precinct 2 at (713)477-2766.
2. Teach your children safety rules about answering the phone and the door and how to get out if there is a fire.
3. Join or start a Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch or Apartment Watch. Start a "Safe House" program for children.
4. Organize a cooperative lock-installation project and check to see if elderly or handicapped neighbors need new locks.
5. Offer some neighborly assistance to anyone who's been the victim of crime: an ear to listen, phone numbers of counselors and victims' units, tips on home security, a ride to court...



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Let's Be Safe at Home



**Take these tips from me, McGruff,
and be my partner for a safe
community.**

