



CITY OF NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Crime Prevention Tips February 6, 2019

The Newport Police Department is asking the community's assistance in reducing the number of property crimes for 2019. After reviewing the crime statistics for 2018, it was clear that most incidents of theft in the City of Newport were related to unsecured property, making it extremely easy for criminals. Here are a few safety tips that will help prevent our community members from being victims of theft:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition or "hidden" inside the vehicle. This includes while the vehicle is parked inside of your garage.
- Never store your vehicle's title inside of the vehicle. Car thieves can use the title to attempt to sell the vehicle to unsuspecting persons, or even attempt to register the vehicle before you are aware it has been stolen.
- Always lock your vehicle when you are away from it. This includes "just running inside" for moment.
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle such as purses, wallets, cell phones, lap tops, etc. If for some reason you must, store the items out of sight and ensure your vehicle is locked.
- Always lock the doors to your home while you are away and before you go to bed. This includes your garage doors.
- Keep the exterior of your home well lit. This is the easiest way to discourage nighttime crime at your residence.
- Do not leave yard working equipment unsecured, such as snow blowers, lawn mowers, edgers, leaf blowers, etc.
- Teach your children to put away their bicycles. Bicycles left on lawns and front porches are frequently stolen.
- Document the serial numbers of any personal property. Also take pictures of your property, a quick cell phone photo will work. Documented serial numbers and photographs could aid law enforcement in recovering your stolen property and holding those who possess your stolen property accountable.

These are just a few safety tips that can help reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft. Remember, the more effort it takes for a thief to steal your property, the less likely it will occur.