



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE
ODENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



PREVENTING CRIME IS A TEAM EFFORT

INSIDE YOUR HOME - LOCKS, DOORS, & WINDOWS

- Install and use deadbolt locks on doors.
- Secure sliding doors and windows with a wooden dowel.
- Lock all windows at night or when away from home.
- Hide valuables out of plain site.
- Don't open your door for strangers, talk to them through the door. If in doubt, call police.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Trim back shrubbery hiding doors or windows.
- Cut back tree limbs that a thief could climb to second floor.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well lighted.
- Keep your garage closed.

KEY SENSE

- Do not hide keys in mail boxes, planters, or under doormats.
- Do not put personal identification on key rings.
- If keys are lost or stolen, change the locks immediately.

WHEN AWAY OR ON VACATION

- Make your home appear occupied when you go out.
- Leave lights on and the radio playing.
- Use timers to turn inside lights on and off.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- If you will be gone several days, arrange to have the mail and papers stopped or picked up.
- Complete a vacation notification at the police station.
- Do not post vacation plans on social media.

IDENTITY THEFT PRECAUTIONS

- Shred documents containing personal information.
- Don't carry your Social Security card or write the number on checks. Resist providing it to others unless absolutely necessary or ask to use another identifier.
- Don't give out personal information to anyone unless you are certain you know who you are dealing with.
- Never click on links in unsolicited emails. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your computer.
- If you make a purchase through an online business that contacted you without your request you can assume that your information has been compromised.
- Don't use easy or obvious passwords.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your home.
- Check your credit report at least annually for free at www.annualcreditreport.com

REPORT SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR ACTIVITY

- Call Central Dispatch at 205-629-3333 to report anything suspicious in the neighborhood.
- Odenville Police will respond to investigate.
- Your help is critical.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
AT www.cityofodenville.net

SCAM ALERTS

GRANDPARENT SCAM

Phone scam where a caller claims to be a grandchild who needs money urgently to get out of jail or travel home. The caller often gets the victim to provide a grandchild's name, when the victim says something like, "Steven is that you?", and the caller replies "yes it's me Steven". The caller will instruct the victim to withdraw cash from their bank and wire it to them or buy pre-loaded gift cards or iTunes cards and provide the code numbers from the cards to the caller.

IRS SCAM

Caller claims to be from the IRS and they have found an error in your taxes! Caller says that if you don't send payment immediately an arrest warrant will be issued, sometimes they claim the police are on the way. Caller will typically convince the victim to obtain a pre-loaded payment card, iTunes card, etc. then have the victim provide the code from the card over the phone. In similar versions the caller will claim to be the police calling about an outstanding warrant or the Court Clerk claiming you failed to appear for jury duty and must pay immediately or be arrested.

DOOR TO DOOR CONTRACTOR SCAM

A "contractor" comes to your door and tells you that you need driveway or roof repair. They will often mention your neighbor's name as a reference, and usually want to be paid in advance. If they do any work at all, they will likely use poor quality materials and do substandard work.

EMAIL SCAMS

The scammer will send an email or connect through a dating site, attempting to establish a romantic relationship leading to requests to have money sent. Similar versions may involve the scammer posing as a soldier in need of money or foreign official who has a fortune to share if the victim will pay some processing fees or provide bank account info.

MICROSOFT IMPERSONATOR SCAM

The caller claims to be from Microsoft or "Windows" and claim that they have learned that the victim's computer has been infected with a virus that will cause the computer become unusable. The ultimate goal of the fraud varies depending upon which con artists are running it. For example, they may try to sell phony anti-virus protection or trick the victim into providing bank or credit card information. Yet others convince the victim to allow remote access to their computer.

- If receiving a suspicious phone call – HANG UP
- If receiving a suspicious email – DELETE, DO NOT RESPOND
- If a suspicious person is at your door, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY