



City of Missoula  
Police Department  
Press Release

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## Residential Burglary Prevention

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There has been an increase in the reported number of residential burglaries in the Rattlesnake area in the last several weeks. While the Missoula Police Department is investigating these crimes, we are also dedicated to informing the public on how to best keep from becoming victims.

Crime prevention empowers citizens to become less vulnerable to criminals by blocking or reducing criminal opportunities. The more the homeowner does to keep the home from looking like an easy target, the safer the home usually is. Some recommended safety and security tips are:

- Use lighting. Good lighting is a deterrent to crime. Effective lighting forces the intruder to work in an area where he/she may be exposed and reported to the police.
- Close and secure your garage doors, windows and entry doors with good quality lock mechanisms.
- Keep landscaping trimmed to discourage intruders from hiding on your property.
- Mark, inventory and document your valuables.
- Join your local Neighborhood Watch.
- Report any suspicious activity to 911.

The staff of the Missoula Police Department can offer further information or assistance with these or other crime prevention strategies.

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