



Criminals are like predators- looking for easy victims

Three Strategies used to deter crime in your neighborhood

1. Eliminate the TARGET. Residents "target harden" to delay, detect, deter, and deny the criminal access.
2. Eliminate the OPPORTUNITY. Residents need to be the 'eyes and ears.'
3. Eliminate the DESIRE, a concerted effort is made to keep those with criminal intent from trespassing, visiting, or living at the property.

General Crime Prevention Tips

- Be Alert: Keep your head up. Report suspicious activities and people in your neighborhood.
- Lock it! Home, car, office - locks are your first line of defense.
- Make Your Home a Tough Target: Use floodlights, motion sensors, a security system, deadbolts, trim brush, and trees away from windows and doors, etc.
- Avoid Car Theft: Lock it!
- Be Creative: Think of unusual ways to protect yourself and your valuables.
- Be Informed: Learn crime trends in your area and work to protect yourself.
- Get Involved: Form a neighborhood watch and talk with your neighbors.

Home Burglary Prevention Tips

How burglars access your residence:

- 34% Front door
- 23% First-floor window
- 22% Back door
- 9% Garage
- 6% Side entrance and storage areas
- 4% Basement
- 2% Second floor window

Favorite Items Stolen: Cash, Jewelry, Electronics, guns, and other items easy to sell.

Burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied. A car in the driveway, motion-sensitive exterior lights, interior lights, and radios and TVs on timers all give the impression someone is in the home. Stop newspaper and mail delivery, and have neighbors watch your home when you're away for an extended period.

Don't give burglars any help. Clear shrubs and trees around your home. Don't give burglars a place to hide. Secure tool sheds and ladders. Some thieves will steal tools from around your property and use them to break windows and doors.

Leave your spare key with a trusted neighbor, not under the doormat, in a planter, or under a rock.

Work with your neighbors to keep your neighborhood clean and orderly.

Illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide: the spaces between trees and shrubs, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entryways.

Use good deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.

Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Tips

1. Do not leave anything in plain sight which you would not taken.
2. Always lock your doors, even if you plan to be away from your vehicle for only a few minutes, such as running in to pay for gas.
3. When shopping, always make sure to place purchases in the trunk and out of sight before going to the next shopping area to park.
4. Try to maintain a "clutter-free" vehicle. Even the smallest and most insignificant items left in plain view could result in a window being smashed.
5. If you don't have the luxury of parking your vehicle in the garage at night and have to leave it parked in the driveway or on the street, make sure to remove the garage door opener. This is a key to your home!
6. Completely close all windows.
7. Never leave your vehicle running unattended.
8. Park in well-lit locations and avoid isolated areas.
9. Install a locking fuel cap.

Garage and Shed Security Tips

1. Use a good lock on ALL shed and garage doors.
2. Lock windows and use blinds to conceal items inside.
3. Mark all property, including lawn mowers, generators, bikes, snow blowers, saws, etc. With your driver's license number and state abbreviation.
4. Secure large or expensive items to fixed objects using a good chain/cable and padlock.
5. Keep a written copy of ALL serial numbers of property stored in sheds & garages.
6. Install motion sensor lights on sheds and garages.
7. Keep bushes/trees around the garage and sheds pruned to improve natural surveillance.

City Ordinance 10.40.020 – General Prohibitions. The operator of a vehicle shall not stop, stand or park the vehicle in any of the following places, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control sign or signal:

- 1. Within an intersection;
- 2. On a crosswalk;
- **3. Within 25 feet of the intersection curb lines;**
- 4. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station;
- **5. Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant;**
- 6. In front of a private driveway;
- **7. On a sidewalk;**
- 8. Within 10 feet of a residential mailbox, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday;
- 9. Alongside or opposite any street elevation or obstruction, when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- 10. Contrary to the signing or other designation by the City Engineer, or their designee;
- 11. Across any painted line or to park vehicle in such a position that the vehicle shall not be entirely within the parking space designated by such lines;
- 12. Alongside or in front of a curb that has been painted yellow at the direction of the City Engineer, or their designee.
- 13. Park on the street side of a vehicle that is already parked on the side of the road, or park behind a vehicle that is parked in a designated space in a manner that obstructs traffic, or blocks, or partially blocks, another vehicle from exiting its parking spot (i.e., double park).
- Furthermore, as it relates to parking violations, your constituents should be aware of the City website <https://rapidcity.municipal.codes/> where all City Ordinances can be found. Most parking issues can be found in codes 10.40, 10.44, and 10.48.