CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Three factors must be present for crime to occur: desire, ability, and opportunity. You can have a significant impact on the last one - opportunity - and reduce crime by following these simple crime prevention tips.

- ✓ Use a door viewer before opening your door. Always demand identification from strangers.

- ✓ Always lock up your home before leaving and don't hide your house keys outdoors.

- ✓ Have keys ready and in your hand for immediate use when you return home.

- ✓ Use interior and exterior lighting at all times.

- ✓ Hide or destroy boxes from expensive purchases.

- ✓ Do not answer personal questions about your home such as type of alarm, daytime occupancy, etc.

- ✓ Do not let people inside your home (to use the bathroom, phone, etc.)

- ✓ Do not give out your personal information or credit card number over the phone unless you initiated the call.

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CATALYTIC CONVERTER PROTECTION TIPS

The value of the metals used in the manufacturing of the catalytic converters is an appeal to thieves. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. The metals are expensive, and thieves sell the converters to scrap yards for several hundred dollars per piece, depending on the size of the converter and the current rate of the metals inside it. It can cost you, on average, up to $2,000 to replace a catalytic converter, and it is illegal to drive your car without one.

✓ Install an anti-theft device.

✓ Weld it to the frame.

✓ Engrave your VIN on it.

✓ Park in a well-lit area, your driveway, or a closed garage.

✓ Regularly move your car.

✓ Set an alarm or camera to catch thieves.

✓ Install motion-sensitive lights.

✓ Install surveillance cameras.

✓ Get to know your neighbors.

We ask for the public's help in providing information about these crimes or the suspects involved. Please contact the South San Francisco Police Department at (650) 877-8900 if you have specific information regarding a recent catalytic converter theft. Please call 911 if you see a theft occurring! See something...say something!

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