

# **"COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION"**

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME:**

1. Burglary, auto theft, vandalism and prowlers are the most prevalent neighborhood crimes.
2. Household burglary is one of the easiest crimes to prevent and commit, but one of the most difficult to solve.
3. Nationwide, over one-half of police time is spent on investigating burglaries.
4. Household burglary is one of the most rapidly increasing major crimes in the nation.
5. Most home burglars are young amateurs looking for easy targets.
6. Statistics show that in over 1/2 of household burglaries there was no forced entry involved.
7. A majority of household burglaries occur during daylight hours.
8. Household burglary has a high potential for death or injury in cases where a burglar is surprised by the property owner.
9. Ninety-eight percent of the time a burglar will not enter your home if he/she thinks someone is home.

## **Vandalism/Graffiti Prevention-Look around your community. Do you see...**

Walls covered with graffiti?

Knocked-over trashcans or mailboxes?

Broken street lights?

Spray paint on stop signs?

Broken public telephones?

Missing street and traffic signs?

Writing or torn pages in library books?

Public restrooms with broken doors and graffiti?

## **Vandalism Costs**

Schools pay out millions of dollars each year to clean up graffiti, repair buildings, or replace vandalized equipment. That means less money for new books, computers, sports equipment, and student activities.

Local governments (and their taxpayers) pay the bills for broken street lights, stolen signs, and vandalized parks.

Businesses pass the costs of vandalism on to customers through higher prices.

## **Vandalism Hurts**

People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs -- a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna -- is destroyed for no reason.

Vandalism indirectly claims other victims -- a child is injured because a stop sign was stolen, a person can't reach 9-1-1 because the public phone is broken.

To report graffiti in West Valley Area, please call the West Valley Alliance at (818) 227-9722  
We need your eyes and ears to catch these vandals. To get involved in our Volunteer Surveillance Detail, call Officer Alexander at (818) 374-7630.

## **QUIZ: ARE YOU AT RISK FOR IDENTITY THEFT? HOW SAVVY ARE YOU?**

### **Document Disposal:**

I own a cross cut shredder, and use it regularly. (+1pt)

My shredder is near the trash can or in the office where most of my mail is sorted. (+2pts)

I receive pre-approved credit offers and shred them before putting in the trash. (+1pt)

I receive convenience checks or balance forward checks in the mail (from credit card companies) every month and shred them before putting in the trash. (+1pt)

I don't believe people root around in my trash to look for credit/financial information. (-1pt)

### **Social Security Number Protection:**

I carry my Social Security card in my wallet. (-3pts)

I have another card in my wallet with my SSN on it. (-3pts)

I have a card that used to have my SSN on it but I copied it and cut off part of the SSN. (+3pts)

I have my SSN or driver's license number printed on my personal checks. (-2pts)

My SSN is also my driver's license number and I have made no effort to change it. (-2pts)

My SSN is publicly displayed or used at work or school (timecards, receipts, badges). (-1pt for each violation))

### **Information Handling:**

I use a locked, secured mailbox or P.O. Box to receive mail. (+1pt)

I leave mail for pickup in an unlocked location at home or work. (-2pts)

I watch my surroundings for people who might be listening when giving out SSN or financial information. (+2pts)

I keep personal identifying information in a locked or protected area of my home; one that visitors cannot access. (+3pts)

I have ordered a copy of my credit report in the last year. (+2pts) Subtract one point for each year you have not checked your report. (maximum 4 pts)

*Your reports are free by federal law. We recommend you stagger your orders, getting a different one (credit reporting bureau) every four months.*

### **Scams:**

I keep an eye on my credit cards whenever they leave my hands to avoid skimming. (+2pts)

I do not respond to Internet scams, and hang up on telephone solicitors. (+2pts)

I provide my SSN whenever asked, without asking how that information will be safeguarded or why it is necessary for them to have it in the first place. (-3pts)

I'm connected to the Internet but don't use firewall or anti-virus software. (-2pts)

***Each one of these questions represents a possible risk factor or protection against ID theft.***

***Each time you added points you were on the right track. Each time you subtracted points, you entered a danger zone. Printed with permission from the Identity Theft Resource***

***Center.*** HYPERLINK <http://www.idtheftcenter.org> [www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)

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