

Crime Exists

Your vulnerability should not be ignored. Threat assessment is a means for you to calmly evaluate your risks.

- Many burglars will spend more than 60 seconds attempting to break into a home. Make sure every external door has sturdy, well-installed dead bolt locks.
- Sliding glass doors offer easy access if not properly secured. You can secure them by installing commercially available locks or placing a broomstick or wooden dowel in the inside track to jam the door.
- Never hide house keys under the door mat or a rock near your door. Most burglars know that trick, Instead give your key to a trusted neighbor.
- Install outdoor floodlights or motion-sensor lights to eliminate any areas where someone might hide.
- When answering the door, never let a stranger in for any reason.
- Always ask service people for ID before letting them into your home. You may want to contact their company to verify their identity and employment (an honest person will not mind).
- Install a peephole in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Prune back shrubbery and trees so they do not obscure windows or doors. Plant thorny bushes or cacti under your windows.

- Get an alarm system and use it faithfully.
- Report incidents of crime to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department and to the Sandia Heights Security Patrol. Even though this seems obvious, many seemingly minor crimes such as vandalism or stolen car parts go unreported. When crimes aren't reported, sheriff's deputies and security officers don't know to watch a particular area more closely.
- Report suspicious vehicles, persons or activities to the Sheriff's department and Security Patrol. It's impossible to patrol every neighborhood constantly. You can be the eyes and ears that help protect your community.
- Keep your garage door closed. Garage doors should be kept closed unless you are actually working in the garage or nearby.
- Park your vehicles in the garage. The safest place to park your vehicle is in your garage, and the doors should be locked and the alarm system activated. If a vehicle must be parked in a driveway or on the street, the windows should be up and the vehicle locked and alarmed.
- Use timers on lights, a radio or even a TV. For the best results, use the timers in rooms that are not easily seen if someone looks through the window.
- Mark your valuables with your drivers license number. Videotape the contents of your home. Keep the video and a list of valuables in a safe place.
- Remove any personal identification from your key ring.
- If you are female and live alone, do not advertise it by placing your name on your mailbox or door. Use only your initials for first and middle names.
- Write down and report the license number of vehicles you feel are suspicious in your neighborhood to the Sheriff's Dept. and the Security Patrol.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or place makes you uncomfortable or uneasy, leave or call the Security Patrol.
- If someone comes to your door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself. Do not let them in!
- If someone in a vehicle asks for directions, answer from a distance. Do not approach the vehicle!
- While walking, avoid isolated areas. Walk confidently and with another person if possible.
- Form a neighborhood watch program. Studies have shown that neighborhood watch programs typically reduce residential burglaries, vandalism and vehicle theft by as much as 30% over a two year period. Contact the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department for more information.
- Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department
Non-Emergency Number 798-7000

