

WARNING:

The Forest Property Owners Association

"IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY"

Home Protection Tips

Lights	Unwanted Calls
<p>Leave at least one on, inside and out when you're away.</p> <p>If you're away, use a timer to turn lights on and off.</p>	<p>Don't give out personal information such as your name or address.</p> <p>If you have an answering machine, use it to screen unwanted calls.</p> <p>Notify the police, sheriff or phone company of threatening or harassing calls.</p>
Locks	Strangers
<p>Buy high-quality dead-bolt locks, and use them.</p> <p>Be sure any door and window locks can be opened quickly if there's a fire.</p> <p>Vehicle Burglaries have occurred on unlocked cars in The Forest. If your vehicle is not garaged, make sure it is LOCKED at all times.</p>	<p>Install a peephole if possible.</p> <p>Don't open the door for strangers, unexpected repair people, deliveries, etc.</p> <p>Always ask for a company ID. Call to verify it if you're suspicious.</p>
Neighbors	Elevators
<p>Watch other houses or apartments, and let your neighbors and security know of anything that's suspicious.</p> <p>Offer your phone to neighbors for emergency use and use theirs when necessary.</p> <p>Keep in touch with your neighbors.</p>	<p>Get on with a group if possible.</p> <p>Stand away from the door while waiting alone.</p> <p>Don't ride an elevator alone with a stranger.</p> <p>If you're uncomfortable with a stranger, get off immediately.</p> <p>Stand near the control panel, and hit the alarm button and floor buttons if necessary.</p>
If You Think Someone Is Inside Your Home	
<p>Don't go in.</p> <p>Call the police or sheriff from a nearby phone.</p>	

Home Security Gated Communities provide a good deterrent to crime but if someone has the intention of breaking into your home, the security officer at the gate is no more than a padlock. A padlock is used to keep an honest person honest. Many burglars will spend no more than sixty seconds to try to break into a home. Good locks, doors and windows locked and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be big deterrents to burglars. Just going to the club for lunch and not securing the house is a very bad habit. Anyone can see you leave your home and the first thing they see is the garage door open. If you secure your house locking only screen doors, this is not a secure home. If you were locked out of your house, how long would it take you to get in? If you can do it, so can a person with the intention of burglarizing your home. No matter how long you leave the house it must be secured! A five or ten minute trip to the store could cost you many thousands of dollars because you did not secure the house. If you have an alarm in your house, use it. Watch out for your neighbors and call the police if you think something looks questionable, i.e.: a broken window, a door open. Security does its best to keep unwanted people from entering The Forest but it does take all of us to make a safer community. Keep a watch out and secure your home any time you leave your house.

Security Lighting The Forest Property Owners Association has taken great expense in all external lighting at our entrances and roads. Due to the great number of lights throughout the Forest, it is a continuing effort to keep these lights burning. Security lighting discourages intruders, makes detection probable and provides for sensitive locations (entrances, walkways, pools, etc.) All homes in the Forest are required by deed restrictions to have, and cause to be in operation, an approved lamp and appropriate base. These lights are essential in marking our roadways. Noncompliance with deed restrictions could result in vehicle bar codes being turned off, or legal action. If your outside light is on a wall switch, consider having a photocell put on the light so you do not have to turn it on every night. Should you need a contractor, call the Forest Property Owners Association office at 482-1109 and you will be given a name of a reliable contractor. Should you need a bulb, pick up a long life thirteen watt fluorescent bulb at the gate house and you will be invoiced for the cost of the bulb. For the safety of all within The Forest, please make sure your light is in correct operating order.

Safety Hint If you have panic button on your car keys, put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get into your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. Odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around after a few seconds because your neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and the potential criminal won't want that. Do you have a Safety Hint, email it to us at forestproperty@aol.com so we can share it with all our residents.

Crime Prevention Tips Exterior lights should illuminate all entrances. Keep shrubbery trimmed back so a burglar can't hide near windows and doors. Keep garage doors closed and locked. Sliding glass doors need to be secured with an auxiliary lock or pin. Keep all doors and windows locked. Don't open your door to strangers. Lock or store bicycles in a safe place. Never hide keys outside. Install deadbolt locks. Keep your vehicles locked at all times. Report suspicious activities to law enforcement (911 or 477-1200)