



49ERS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-DOG NEWSLETTER!

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As the really nice weather comes to our community, we need to be especially vigilant with regard to personal safety and the safety of others. Garage sales bring extra traffic and parking which narrows the access on our streets.

Children may accompany their parents as they shop but could wander into the street. Door-to-door sales people may be walking in the area (more on this below) and as soon as school finishes, children will be everywhere.



Those who use computers are well aware of the scamming techniques used to acquire sensitive personal information. We want to alert you to the telephone version of this scam. "Vishing" is a scamming technique where criminals call a consumer and state their financial information has been compromised or needs attention. This latest ploy to steal your credit card number and personal information is so believable that many are falling for it. If you get a telephone call where someone is asking you to provide or confirm any of your personal information, immediately hang up and call your financial institution. Never give financial or personal information over the phone to automated phone services unless you are calling a verified financial institution's phone number. Always ensure the phone number you are calling or being called from is the financial institutions where you have accounts, and interact with a human being. If you don't feel comfortable on the phone, visit the local branch. If you get an email asking you to call a specific number to verify credit card information, delete it! (This text courtesy of the security staff at a major university.)



We have had enough bad experiences in 49er's with home break-ins that this little commentary from a friend in law enforcement back east should increase our awareness of what is happening around us.

13 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You



1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.



5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway. (Not so applicable here.)

6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.



8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for some directions or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.



11. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.



13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)

8 MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook

2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.



3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.



4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.



7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book, *Burglars on the Job*.

Possible door-to-door scams

Recently, our Neighborhood Watch Area Leader, Claire Place, sent a detailed message regarding a possible door-to-door selling scam. The individuals sell books or magazines or seek house painting contracts. They represent themselves as being referred by a neighbor or family member. They may even suggest that they live in the area. Please be alert for this type of visitor. Do not let anyone into your home that is not known to you without checking references. Persons representing utilities such as the water company are uniformed and will produce proper ID. If in doubt, call the company. If really in doubt, call 911.



Finally, your editors again remind our readers to look after the elderly or homebound who live in 49er's. They need to know that someone cares. We need to be in a position to respond if they need help.

Here are some useful phone numbers:



Pima County Sheriff's Department – Emergency - Dial 911

Rincon Station, Non-Emergency – 295-4500

Rural/Metro Fire or Ambulance Emergency - Dial 911

Non-emergency number – 299-1411

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Poison Control Center – 626-66016

Useful e-mail addresses:

49er's Neighborhood Watch Program –

Claire Place claireplace@cox.net

49er's Home Owners Association web site

www.49ershoa.org

Sheriff's Department "E-Connection" Program

<http://safelink.pimasheriff.org/register.aspx>

This is a new link and replaces the earlier E-connection link. You will need to register, but the site is very user-friendly.

