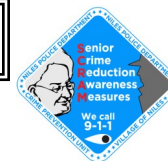




S.C.R.A.M. GAZETTE



Home Burglary Prevention Tips

Preventing a home burglary is about following some simple principles.

First, be sure to lock up doors and windows. Many home burglaries start by a burglar trying to enter through a door or window that is unlocked. Having a quality locks helps reduce the risk.

Second, make your home look occupied, even when your not home. Having lights on both outside as well as inside. If you are not home during the twilight

hours, put some interior lights on timers in several rooms.

Be sure that your sliding glass door has a door lock, as well as a toe kick. If you don't have a toe kick lock installed, utilize a piece of dowel rod or a hockey stick handle cut to length.

Be sure to put away and lock up items such as lawn mowers, bicycles and other valuables. As well as securing your garden sheds or garage door.

Trim your shrubbery to no more than 3 feet in height and trim trees up to 7 feet in height. This way you have a clear line of sight from the street to your home and in reverse as well.

Lastly, if you see someone or something suspicious please call the police. This can mean the difference between you becoming a victim of crime or preventing one from occurring.

How to protect your Social Security number by Lisa Gerstner

Protecting your Social Security number and avoiding online and phone scams are critical to preventing your personal data from falling into the wrong hands.

A Social Security number is like gold to an identity thief. A crook can use it -- along with other information, such as your name, address and birth date -- to open credit card or loan accounts, file a fraudulent tax return, obtain government benefits, even get medical care.

Never carry your Social Security card in your wallet, and don't leave anything in your car that contains your SSN or other sensitive information. If you don't think an organization needs your SSN, omit it on forms. (Your bank or lender, your employer and government agencies probably have good reason to ask for it.)

If the company insists that it needs the number, ask how it will protect your information. Walk away if the response doesn't satisfy you.



Many Medicare recipients will have their SSNs printed on their cards for several more years, until the government fully phases out cards that include the numbers.

In the meantime, you can make a copy of your Medicare card, black out all but a couple of digits of your SSN on the copy and, on the back, write contact information for someone who can provide your SSN in an emergency, says Adam Levin, chairman and founder of Identity Theft 911. Carry the copy with you regularly, and take the actual card with you only for doctor visits.

During tax season, submit your return as early as possible. You may deflect any attempts by thieves who already have your

SSN to file a return in your name and collect a refund.

You may receive phone calls or e-mails from fraudsters claiming to be representatives from, say, your bank, the IRS or even a doctor's office requesting personal information or demanding payment. If you're not sure that a call or message is legitimate, look up the phone number for the company and call to ask whether it contacted you. (The IRS never initiates contact about a bill by phone or e-mail.)

Never download a file or click on a link in an e-mail or text message unless you're sure it's from a safe source. Doing so could infect your device with malware or lead you to a scam website that mimics a real one. In one scheme, smartphone users who click on fraudulent ads or links in text messages unknowingly install malware that later gathers their identifying information when they use banking applications.

Source: [Chicago Tribune](#)

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Hidden maps in your smartphone show everywhere you've been

As creepy as it might seem, your phone knows everywhere you've been. It's scary to see your most visited locations listed out in a feature called Frequent Locations on iPhones. Conversely, Google Location History follows you around on Android gadgets too.

When you open your Frequent Locations and Location History, you can see where you've been, the time period you were there and how long you stayed (up to 30 days worth of history for Google users). You can also see how many times you have visited a particular location.

While these features could be helpful in finding a lost phone, or help locate you in case of an emergency, many users have expressed concern over the threat of a thief or a hacker getting their hands on this information, things like your home or work address. Not to mention snoops



and nosey neighbors too.

The feature has been around since 2013. But things have certainly changed since then!

Both Apple and Android have significantly expanded the use of location tracking as well as the number of apps that do too. Here's how you can see your own maps and turn them off for both Apple and Android.

How to turn Apple's Frequent Locations off

In order to turn off Apple's Frequent Locations features, go to Settings >> Privacy >> Location Services >> System Services >> Frequent Locations and

toggle it off. You can also eliminate your history here by clicking "Clear History."

How to turn Android's Location History off

In order to deactivate an Android device's location history feature, go to Settings >> Google >> Location >> Google Location History and turn off. You can also access this screen through a separate app called Google Settings.

In order to delete your location history, your path is Settings >> Google >> Location History >> Delete Location History.

If you want to only delete certain sections or individual bits and pieces, you'll want to sign into your Google Account and go to Google Maps. Here you can delete locations by date or location, one by one.

Source: Komando.com

7 Black Friday Tips For Safe Shopping

Plan a designated meetup time and place. Not all stores will have good cell phone reception, so set a specific time to meet back up after shopping. Also, make sure to choose a very specific place to meet, as the "electronics section" can be a big enough place on its own to lose someone!

If you're driving between multiple stores, put purchases in the trunk. A bag full of video games or digital cameras makes an enticing target. Clear out that trunk and make as much space as possible before you head out shopping.

Carry a small bag with your wallet in it, and make sure it is closely against your body to avoid losing it or having anything stolen. If you need to bring drinks or snacks, bring a backpack. If at all possible, only carry credit cards, and make

photocopies of them before you leave the house so that you'll have the account number and customer service phone number if your wallet is lost or stolen.

Make sure cell phones are powered on, fully charged, and accessible. Keep your phone in your pocket where you can feel it vibrate, even if you can't hear it ringing in a loud environment. Don't put the phone in your purse where you can't hear or feel it. Before you go in with a group, ensure everyone has everyone else's phone numbers in their phone.

Write down where you parked the car and take a picture of what you see straight ahead as you walk away from it. This will help you avoid trying to remember if you parked in the lane by the hydrant or the hydrangeas! Also, make sure

you have plenty of gas in the tank, as it may take some time to find parking or to get out of the parking lot once you're done.

Note what each person is wearing under their coat. If you only remember that Aunt Susie had a red coat on, it'll make it hard for you to spot her in the crowd once she takes off her coat inside.

Watch your feet while you are walking as it's easy to trip and fall in a big crowd. If you fall or otherwise injure yourself, please don't put off medical treatment. Most stores will have a first-aid kit and many will have police officers on hand to help out. A bad wrist sprain or broken ankle is no picnic!

Do you have any additional tips to add to the mix? Stay safe when shopping this Black Friday!