



Irving Safety Newsletter

An Informed Community is a Safer Community

November 2009

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EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Non Emergency Phone number

972 721-2518

[Irving Police Website](#)

[Contact Phone Numbers](#)

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Spotlight – ...

Guidelines Strengthen the City's Crime Initiative in Apartments

To strengthen the city's initiative to decrease Irving's overall crime rate, City Council members have approved an apartment crime reduction ordinance. The new guidelines will mandate that apartment complexes with the highest crime rates participate in a [crime reduction program](#).

Statistics show that a majority of the city's crime exists in apartment complexes, which include:

- 62 percent of robbery of individuals
- 48 percent of auto thefts
- 41 percent of aggravated assaults

"Irving lowered its overall crime rate to the lowest level in recorded history for the second consecutive year in 2009," said Police Chief Larry Boyd. "By implementing this ordinance, we hope to see an even greater decrease in crime over time, as experienced in other cities that have implemented similar programs."

Per the ordinance, participating apartments will have to adhere to new lighting, landscaping and fencing regulations, as well as participate in crime watch meetings and crime prevention training. Department of Public Safety background checks for tenants also will be required.

Implementation and enforcement of the ordinance will be effective January 2010. Once notified, apartment communities designated to participate in the crime reduction program will have 30 days to pay a nonrefundable \$250 program fee.



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The race is on! During the holiday season, child safety procedures are imperative because of the large crowds we see everywhere. Everyone is

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North Patrol (north of SH183)

972 721-7805

engaged in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Everyone. Not simply moms, dads, aunts and uncles looking for the perfect gifts, but child predators looking for their next victim as well. The large crowds present at shopping malls and department stores make their jobs much easier; there is more anonymity and more distractions for parents with children in tow. As a result, there are several safety precautions every shopping parent should take when accompanied by the children.

Supervision! When in a mall or other public facility, always supervise your children. Always accompany your child to the restroom. Many modern malls are installing restrooms/changing areas made especially for families, which makes it easier for dad to take his daughter to the restroom without having to take her into the sparkling clean men's room that incidentally also contains men. Depending on the age and responsibility of the child, they may be allowed to have some time away from mom. If that is the case, make sure they check with you before they go and that they do not go to locations other than where they stated.

Separation. It is possible for a child to become separated from you while shopping. The possibility of that unfortunate event makes it imperative that children know what to do. Teach them to look for people who can help return him to her to you. They should be able to identify law-enforcement officers, security officers, store personnel or another mother with children as persons who can get them back to their parents. They should not leave the area where they first realize they are lost and never, ever leave the mall to look for your car.

Practice. Visits the mall with your children for the sole purpose of having them practice what they should do while in the mall. Here is where you can ensure they can use a public telephone, locate help within the mall or a store and, for older children, go to the restroom with a friend.

Anonymity. Never dress your children in clothing with their names on them. Such clothing allows a predatory person an avenue to convince the child they are not "strangers" and could lead to further unwanted behavior. No stranger should have such an invitation to talk to your child.

Not for babysitting. Parents or guardians should never leave children alone at video arcades, movie theaters, toy store or playground. In these places, there is no supervision and the people staffing these areas are generally not much older than your children. Frankly, most are not watching for inappropriate behavior and they don't care about your child. as a convenient "babysitter" while they are holiday shopping. These places are also magnets for child predators.

Older children have likely ventured out on their own before. If you allow them to do this while holiday shopping, as mentioned earlier, make sure they have a friend with them. There is safety in numbers. Although you may let them go off on their own, they should regularly check in with you, in person, not via cellular telephone or text message. Plans for meeting each other should be clearly conveyed and adhered to by everyone.

There is no substitute for parental supervision while holiday shopping. If you can't adequately supervise your children without being distracted, stay at home or leave them with someone else while you do your shopping.

An excellent source for all manner of information regarding child safety,

Jail

972 721-3608

To register for
["All About Irving"](#)

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Citizens Police Academy
application



Contact me,

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preventing abduction, and identifying potentially dangerous circumstances is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com). Give them a visit and your children will be safer for it.

Dumb Criminals-

Modesto, California

Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun, but unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket.

Crime Prevention Tip -

HOME SECURITY

IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS...

Did you leave the front door or garage door unlocked while you made a quick trip to the grocery store? Was it too much trouble to check the meter reader's identification before letting him in? Did you forget to tell a neighbor that you were going away for the weekend? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you are making it easier for a thief to work in your community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Good locks, simple precautions, neighborly alertness, and common sense can help prevent most property crimes. Get together with your neighbors to keep an eye on each other's homes. Half of all home burglaries occur during the day when alert neighbors could spot the thieves and call the police. Many neighborhoods have started youth patrols, or senior citizen "Window Watches," or trained people like newspaper carriers, cab drivers and utility employees to watch out for suspicious activity on their routes. Please read the following tips to help prevent a home burglary!

The burglary basics:

- Make your home look occupied, and make it

difficult to break in.

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Don't tempt a thief:

- Lawn mowers, snow blowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

Locks...get the best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
- Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame - place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

If Your Home Is Broken Into:


If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- **Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.**

- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home -- this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver you can borrow from your precinct. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary. **Call Officer Crum at 972) 721-7778 for information about Neighborhood Watch.**
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.



The MOST important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or any SUSPICIOUS activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes!

Remember the three L's of Crime Prevention: LIGHTS, LOCKS & the LAW!

Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times, and call the Law when you see something suspicious.