Apartment Crime Prevention

THIEVES LOVE APARTMENTS! Apartments provide a concentrated opportunity for a variety of crimes including Burglary, Auto-Theft, Car Break-Ins and Vandalisms, Personal Assault, and Robbery.

A higher ratio of crime occurs in apartment complexes than in most residential neighborhoods. This is due to many factors including population density, a high concentration of cars parked together, unfamiliarity and anonymity of residents, the transient nature of some complex populations, and numerous dark corners on the property.

WHAT APARTMENT RESIDENTS CAN DO
· Promptly report safety hazards to management (lighting damaged/missing, gaps in fences, overgrown shrubbery, malfunctioning door locks, etc.)
· Keep porch lights ON
· Lock deadbolts, window latches, sliding doors
· Request and use peepholes in doors
· Know neighbors by name, recognize their vehicles
· Resolve to report suspicious people and activity to police and management IMMEDIATELY
· Lock cars, NEVER leave them running
· Remove ALL valuables from parked cars (including i-Pods, CDs, purses, cell-phones, change, etc.)
· Take removable faces off car stereo equipment
· Secure vehicles with a CLUB or similar device
· Secure firearms in safes and/or with gun locks (FREE from CPD)
· Pay attention when walking in public
· Be suspicious of strangers

A Neighborhood Crime Watch CAN be established in an apartment complex. Consult with your manager about starting one.

For more information on this and other topics contact:
Charleston Police Crime Prevention Unit
180 Lockwood Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 769-7407
CrimePrevention@Charleston-SC.gov
www.Charleston-PD.org