



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency - 911

**Non-Emergency
(480) 644-2211**

**Ken Cost
Chief of Police**

Crime Prevention Contacts:

Central Division
CentralCrimePrevention@mesaaz.gov
480-644-2033

Fiesta Division
FiestaCrimePrevention@mesaaz.gov
480-644-2539

Red Mountain Division
RedMountainCrimePrevention@mesaaz.gov
480-644-3921

Superstition Division
SuperstitionCrimePrevention@mesaaz.gov
480-644-5014

www.mesaaz.gov/police

**See It,
Say It,
Solve It!**



Mesa Police Department CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

Partnering with our community to prevent and reduce crime

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3 PG 1

MAY-JUNE, 2020

Sheltering in Place? Time to Review Crime Prevention Tips!

With the current "shelter in place" and social distancing recommendations, many people are now working from home. Hopefully you have a little more time on your hands, so let's make sure you are following crime prevention tips!!



~ Walk around your house, checking all windows and exterior doors to make sure they are all locked and secured. If there are any issues, such as a broken window

lock, you can still secure the window by placing a round dowel into the lower track. This will prevent the glass pane from sliding across the track. You can also use a dowel as a secondary lock for both windows and sliding glass doors.

~ Make sure your gate is closed and locked. Criminals don't want to be seen, so burglars are more apt to attempt to enter a home where there is concealment, which often means a back yard.



~ Don't provide places for criminals to hide! Walk around your house and trim any shrubbery that may be blocking a window or could provide a hiding spot for a criminal, especially around an entry point, such as a garage or entry door. While you are at it, put away anything of value, such as bikes, skateboards, toys, and tools.



~ Check your outside lights. Are they all clean and in working order? Dirty covers can block light from flowing properly, so the cleaner the fixtures are, the more light will be able to get out.



~ Check timers around the inside of your home. Your house should always appear occupied, and timers to turn lights on and off will help with that. If you don't have timers, consider installing them before your next vacation. Set them to turn on a light at dusk for a couple of hours, then off again. Locate them in different rooms, one in a front room and one in a back room.



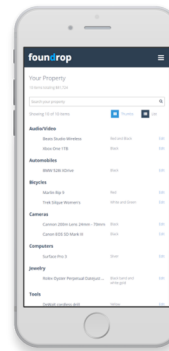
~ If you have exterior doors without deadbolt locks, consider changing out the lock. A deadbolt that goes into the door frame at least 1" will make forced entry more difficult.



~ If you are storing a bicycle outside, make sure it's got a good lock and is secured to a stationary item such as a bollard, bike rack or metal railing. A good cable is as important as a good lock, so make sure you have both, and register your bike online at www.mesaaz.gov/police



~ Take advantage of the Mesa Police free inventory program, Foundrop. There, you can upload photos, descriptions and specifics about your valuable items such as jewelry, weapons, antiques, electronics, and other property. No one can see your inventoried property except you. For more information and to get started, go to **Foundrop.com**



For more crime prevention and safety tips, please visit: www.mesaaz.gov/residents/police/crimeprevention

SOCIAL DISTANCE & WASH YOUR HANDS!



Mesa Police Department

CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

Partnering with our community to prevent and reduce crime

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3 PG 2

MAY—JUNE, 2020

Monsoon Storms and Scammers—Both Can Do Damage!

The opportunity for crimes and damage to occur after a disaster such as a violent monsoon or microburst, can increase if we don't take precautionary measures in advance. Take steps today to reduce the opportunity to be victimized now and in the future!

Monsoon Season brings high winds and torrential rains. Assess your home or business for vulnerable areas that could sustain damage during this time. Do a thorough walk through. Check every window and door, and secure any that may be loose or weak. These measures will help reduce false alarms as well.



~ Cut back tree limbs that are near any windows or glass doors. Broken windows are easy access for a burglar.

~ Keep your garage door closed all the way, when not in use. Organize tools and put them in a secure place in the garage, so they will be easy to find if you need to make repairs after a storm.

~ Keep doors and windows to your vehicle closed and locked. Keep keys inside the house where you can easily grab them if you need to evacuate.

~ Add shutters, additional locks, and window security laminate if needed for extra security. Window security laminate keeps the glass from shattering in many cases, reducing access to the home. Tinted security laminate also helps with privacy.



If you sustain damage to your property, do your research before hiring a contractor to make any repairs. Do not hire door to door repair workers. Hire licensed and bonded individuals who can provide a warranty. Check with the Better Business Bureau and if you have any concerns contact the Registrar of Contractors at: www.roc.az.gov



Scammers are out in full force while you are home trying to stay safe and healthy.

Spending our time at home has meant many more people are on-line, visiting with friends using different media platforms such as Facebook,

Skype and apps, such as Zoom or Go To Meeting. This has allowed scammers to take advantage and send thousands of malicious emails out or hijack meetings where people are trying to work from home.

A few tips to keep safe while computing at home:

~ Install good firewalls, anti-virus programs, and VPN's for businesses.

~ Before opening any emails always check the email address to see where they are really from, especially when they have a tag line such as: "Hey, I know we are friends, but I need a favor" or "Can you help me out" or something similar. Contact the actual friend by phone before opening any emails to make sure it is legitimate and to save yourself from installing a malicious virus through the email. Also, since the email usually requests money or a gift card, you have just saved yourself a lot of cash by not opening it!



~ Do Not take phone calls from numbers claiming to be from the U.S. Government. You CANNOT have your stimulus check expedited, and the IRS will NOT call you for your bank account information. Social Security will never call you and ask you to "verify" your personal information. The IRS and Social Security only use the U.S. Mail for corresponding with you, unless you call them first.



~ Protect your computer from malicious viruses as diligently as you protect your family from viruses. Stay home, stay safe and healthy, and stay protected and vigilant on-line.