

Crime Prevention News Bulletin

Roseville Police Department Community Services Division

www.roseville.ca.us/police

Vol 10, Issue 4

Police Department Community Services

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Our Partners

Roseville Crime Stoppers www.rsvlcrimestoppers.org (916) 783-STOP

Roseville Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (RCONA) www.RCONA.org

Roseville Police Activities League (RPAL) www.rosevillepal.org (916) 772-7725

Project Lifesaver Tracking for wandering children and seniors (916) 746-1077

Summertime Crime Prevention Beware of Crimes of Opportunity

Summer brings warmer weather, longer days and, unfortunately, an increase in burglaries. You can exercise renewed diligence to reduce or eliminate the occurrence of these crimes.

- Keep vehicles locked with the windows up at all times when parked at your home. Remove all valuables including purses, cell phones, MP3 players, GPS systems, laptop computers, DVD players, gym bags, briefcases etc.
- Avoid Home Improvement scams. Beware of anyone offering to perform an unscheduled home repair or asking to gain entry into your home. Ask for identification; contact the company they say they work for to verify employment and ask for authorization for them to be at your property. Never agree to pay for home improvement services until the work has been completed. Don't sign home improvement contracts without reading the entire contract carefully and discussing anything that doesn't seem clear with the company and trusted family members.
- Keep doors closed and locked. This includes garages, sheds and patio doors. Burglaries from open garages, sheds and residences are more prevalent in summer months and often occur while the homeowner is outside in the backyard.
- Unattended bicycles should always be locked to something sturdy. It's great to enjoy Roseville's open space areas and shady bike paths, but remember when you stop to rest, eat or use restroom facilities, an unlocked and unattended bike is an invitation to theft.
- Vacation plans? Stop delivery of mail and newspapers or have a trusted neighbor pick them up daily. Set inside lights on a timer. Set your home alarm. Have a neighbor keep an eye on your house and make sure to leave a contact phone number for them to reach you in case of an emergency. You can request a Vacation House Check from the the Police Department.



When you're traveling, what do you do about Kids and Public Restrooms?

That feeling of dread....Mom is with her son....or Dad is with his daughter...and she or he hears those words, "I need to go to the bathroom!" It might be that the child is just old enough that it isn't appropriate to take them into the restroom of the opposite sex.

While in most cases restrooms are safe, there is always the lingering safety issue on your mind because you just don't know who may be inside and what their motives are. Here are some quick tips to keep your family safe:

- Talk with your children about safety in public bathrooms. Encourage them to use the stalls
 and lock the stall door once they have entered it. If they don't' feel comfortable because somebody strange is in the bathroom, they should immediately exit.
- Let your child and those inside the bathroom know that you are there. As they walk in, talk in a loud voice indicating that you will be at the door waiting for them. You can also talk to them from the doorway, reassuring them that you are there and asking them if they are ok. This will make them feel safer and let any would-be criminal know that Mom or Dad is just outside.



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School's out...is your child spending time Home Alone?

Home Alone Checklist

Many families must make the difficult decision to leave age-appropriate children home alone during the summer. While the children may be totally trustworthy by demonstrating maturity and common sense, it is still important to discuss and reinforce safety expectations with them. Take the time to go over the realities of what can happen while home alone. You might even want to practice some "drills" of hazardous situations. Be sure they know not to panic in an emergency, but rather to stay clam and use common sense.

Teach them to infer that there is an adult at home if someone knocks at the door. They might say "Mom, someone's at the door" or "Dad is in the shower" if someone on the phone asks to speak to a parent.

Here's a brief checklist of safety and security tips for educating your children:

- Be sure your child knows what to do in the event of a fire, medical incident, power outage or natural disaster
- Practice how to escape from the house in a variety of emergencies
- Be sure they know to keep doors and windows locked when they are home alone
- Lay down firm ground rules! Friends visiting, use of matches or lighters, any cooking in the kitchen should all be discussed and agreed upon before you leave
- Provide the child with telephone numbers to reach you as well as at least one other trusted adult (preferably somebody who
 lives close by)
- Talk to your neighbors and identify who your child can seek assistance from, if needed, in your absence
- Talk to your child about the dangers of strangers at the door and that they should never open the door for a stranger

Safety When Walking ecome over-confident in our se

As adults, we often become over-confident in our security and can become complacent about our own personal safety. The sad reality is that incidents of crime can and do happen to anyone at anytime. The good news is that there are steps that we can take to protect ourselves, no matter where we are, to help prevent or deter criminals from preying upon us. It really begins with common sense and understanding what would and what would not be enticing to a criminal.

- First and foremost, be aware of persons around you. Look at persons walking by (instead of pretending not to see them) and acknowledge them with a quick "hello." It sends a message of confidence and awareness which is a turn-off for many criminals.
- Take a phone! When out for a walk, carry a cell phone to call for help in the event of an emergency. Don't forget to pre-program in the direct phone number to the law enforcement agency in each area you walk so that if you need help, you can talk immediately to the right agency to get help fast. Calls made to 911 within the City of Roseville limits go directly to the Roseville Police Department.
- Walk with a partner: a four-legged one is great too! While crimes can happen to more than one person at a time, there is a greater crime deterrent when walking with another person or a dog.
- Take only what you need. Carrying a wallet or purse full of credit cards, cash and other valuables just doesn't make sense and certainly creates an incentive for a thief. If you need to carry any money or credit cards while walking, try limiting it to one card or a small amount of cash that can be put into your pocket.
- Set an example for children by crossing streets safely and legally. A child who see their parent or other grown-up ignoring laws or obvious safety practices will often think that is "permission" for them to do the same thing!



