

Opportunity Knocks...for the criminals!

The La Mesa Police Department has had several burglaries since the beginning of 2009. The department's Crime Analyst has made some connections in a few of the burglaries. By reporting the information to the citizens of La Mesa, we hope that you will take the proper precautions in your home to avoid becoming a target for an opportunist.

In two of the cases, empty homes were targeted. In one case, the lock box placed on the door by the realtor was broken and the key used to gain access to the home. In the other case, the homeowner had not been in the home for several months, however many of her belongings were still in the home. There were no signs of forced entry, so it is possible that the suspect obtained a key to the home.

In another incident, the home was not vacant, but a family had just moved in and did not sleep in the home overnight. Items that had already been moved in were stolen from the moving boxes. In this case, entry was gained through a sliding glass door. In a separate incident, the resident awoke to the sound of their garage door being opened. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the garage door had been left unlocked by the resident and the keys left in the ignition of the vehicle. The suspect stole the set of keys, which contained both house and vehicles keys. Nearby, on a different date, a garage door was left open all night and the residents awoke to find their bicycle and golf clubs missing.

Criminals roaming the streets are looking for opportunities to steal from hardworking La Mesa residents. Criminals can be on the prowl both day and night, in any neighborhood. Do not give them the opportunity to break into your home or vehicle. Make sure all of your locks are in good working order, close and lock all doors, set your alarm, never leave valuables in plain view, and get to know your neighbors. By knowing who belongs in your neighborhood, it is easier to spot a burglar that may be casing your neighborhood. For more information on home and vehicle security or to start a neighborhood watch program, please call the La Mesa Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (619) 667-1445 or visit www.cityoflamesa.com.