

# From the Desk of Detective Dave

*Take Away Easy Opportunities  
for Car and Home Theft*

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Recently, I have had several cases involving vehicle trespasses and home burglaries and upon reviewing the case reports I have found some similarities. In nearly all the cases the perpetrators took advantage of easy opportunities. Here are some suggestions that will make your home and property less of a target.

- 1) Keep your garage door closed - Criminals drive through neighborhoods and take note of property stored in garages. If given the opportunity, they'll steal it.
- 2) Lock your car - Lock your car doors and set the alarm if it has one. The vast majority of vehicle trespasses involve an unlocked door. Remove your valuables or keep them out of plain view, including your garage door opener.
- 3) Light it up - Turn on your exterior porch, patio and/or garage lights at night. This will typically deter criminals as they prefer to operate under the cover of darkness. Today's high efficiency light bulbs make this a cost effective method. Utilizing solarized motion sensor lighting works great for unlighted areas too.
- 4) Consider investing in a home alarm system - There are a myriad of systems available but any type is better than none at all. Also, most home insurance providers offer premium discounts that may offset the monthly fees associated with alarm systems.

For more information on how to protect yourself and your property contact the Police Department at 720-382-5700 or stop by 333 5th St. and pick up a "SAFE AND SECURE" booklet that contains information about protecting yourself, identity theft, fraud crimes and cyber-crimes.

If you have any information about criminal activity, please contact us immediately or if you prefer to remain anonymous, please contact the Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, [www.nococrimestoppers.com](http://www.nococrimestoppers.com).

## CONTACT US

720.382.5700

333 5th Street  
P.O. Box 435  
Frederick, CO 80530



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