



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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PRESS RELEASE
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NEW BERN POLICE OFFER TIPS TO AVOID BREAK-INS

During the past two months, the New Bern Police Department has investigated a number of residential and business break-ins throughout the city. While the department has made several arrests in connection to the reported break-ins, home and business owners are encouraged to take simple precautions to avoid becoming easy targets of crime. There are many inexpensive steps owners can take to keep their properties safe:

HOME AND BUSINESS SAFETY TIPS:

- **Keep buildings well-lit** – Light the outside of your home or business to make it more visible, especially near doors and windows. Install motion detector lights, which make it more difficult for intruders to enter a building without being seen.
- **Secure doors and windows** - Keep all doors and windows, including garage doors, locked to avoid easy points of access for intruders. Install deadbolts for added security.
- **Trim shrubs** - Trim bushes, shrubs and trees near doors and windows to reduce hiding places for would-be burglars.
- **Protect valuables** - Maintain a list of valuables and their serial numbers, which help in the recovery of stolen items and insurance claims. It's best to not keep expensive jewelry, collectibles or large amounts of cash in homes or businesses.
- **Don't advertise your absence** – Avoid answering machines messages that announce extended business closures or personal vacations. If you leave town for long periods of time, set timers for lights and radios to create the appearance of activity in your home. Enlist the help of neighbors to pick up mail and newspapers.
- **Report suspicious activity** - If you see someone or something suspicious, it's always best to report it to local law enforcement agencies.

Business owners are encouraged to contact the New Bern Police Department for business-specific surveys that help identify problem areas and possible security issues with commercial buildings.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing,”** by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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