

Prevention Information

Quick Tips

- Be aware of your surroundings especially when leaving or returning home. Call 911 immediately to report any suspicious person, vehicle or activity observed in the area.
- Help neighbors by keeping watch of their homes in addition to your own. Again, report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Eliminate crimes of opportunity by keeping vehicles and house windows and doors (garage, front, rear, patio) locked.
- Keep valuables out of plain sight and do not leave valuables in vehicles parked outside.
- Become active in your neighborhood/homeowner association and get to know your neighbors.

Suspicious Situations To Be Aware Of: (CALL POLICE IMMEDIATELY @ 911)

- Subjects who knock on the door or start to walk in and tell you they are looking for a friend, but a person by that name does not and has not lived there.
- Subjects who don't belong at your residence "hanging out" on the porch.
- Subjects observed walking through the neighborhood looking into cars, garages, houses, or otherwise acting suspiciously.
- Subjects asking you if you would like to buy electronics or merchandise on the street.
- Subjects in a car driving slowly around your neighborhood or parked at the curb.

Vacation Security

- When you leave for a vacation make sure that your doors and windows are locked.
- Notify your neighbors the dates you will be gone, and provide a number where you can be reached in the event of an emergency.
- Have a friend in town check on your residence.
- Take valuables with you or secure them.
- Close blinds and curtains so that people cannot see into your residence.
- Have someone pick up your mail and newspapers or stop delivery until you return.

Be aware of your environment; if you see suspicious persons or vehicles, report it to the police immediately.

**CALL
911**



Pittsfield Charter Township

Learn further home security strategies by seeking crime awareness and prevention information and tips from the Department of Public Safety.

Contact Community Coordinator Ritchie Coleman at colemanr@pittsfield-mi.gov and/or contact the Community Patrol Unit regarding a neighborhood problem (call 911 for anything in-progress) or for a Home Security Survey at publicsafety@pittsfield-mi.gov.

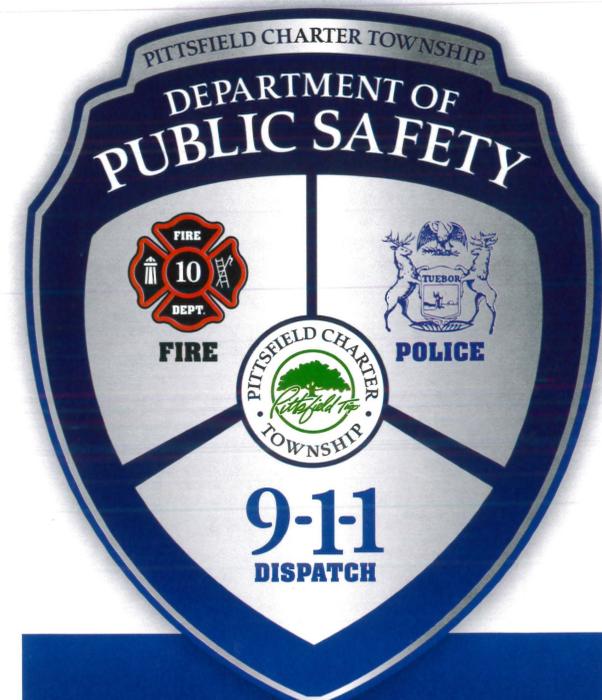
Sign up for crime alerts through www.crimemapping.com and for emergency notifications, including weekly public safety activity reports, through www.pittsfield-mi.gov/notifyme

Mandy Grewal, Supervisor

Matthew E. Harshberger
Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

Website: www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Pittsfield Charter Township Department of Public Safety



**CRIME
PREVENTION
TIPS**

6227 West Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Phone: (734) 822-4911 • Tip: (734) 822-4958

Information provided by the Pittsfield Township
Department of Public Safety
Website: www.pittsfield-mi.gov
Email: publicsafety@pittsfield-mi.gov

Burglary/Home Invasion

- Lock doors and windows. Start a routine of checking to make sure doors and windows (and cars parked outside) are locked every night before you go to sleep.
- Replace door strike plate screws with 3 to 4-inch screws, so that they are secured well into the doorframe.
- If possible, pin your double hung windows to keep them from opening too far to the point a burglar can crawl through.
- Remove valuables from plain sight. Keeping valuables out of sight is an important prevention tip. A burglar may likely move to another house where valuables are easily visible.
- Do not leave purses and wallets on countertops and on tables in the main areas of the house. Secure them in bedrooms, closets or other locations where they are not in plain sight.
- Do not store empty cans and bottles on your porch. This may attract subjects to your home.
- Engrave your property with a number or letters that will be easily identifiable to you, if your property is stolen and later recovered. It is recommended that a driver license number or state ID number be used.

✓ Operation Identification

Mark your property with your Michigan driver license number or state ID number. Put "Operation I.D." decals on your windows and doors to warn burglars that your property can be traced.

- Take pictures of your property and keep them in a safe deposit box or at a safe location away from your home. Record make, model and serial numbers of your property, especially electronics.
- Write your name in permanent marker on CD's and DVD's.

Home Invasion/Burglary Prevention

Home Invasion (Burglary) is a crime of opportunity. Make the burglar's work risky and difficult, take away the opportunity by following these important basic prevention tips and precautions.

First Line of Defense

To a burglar, visibility means vulnerability. They hide behind fences and shrubbery. Keep hedges clipped down around waist level near windows and other entry points.

Lighting

Light is a great crime deterrent. Light up all dark areas, especially doors and windows. Motion sensors/detectors to activate outside lights automatically are great added features. Use light timers when on vacation.

Prevent Easy Access

Burglars try doors and windows first. If burglars have difficulty there (keep doors and windows locked securely), chances are that they will move on to another property. Remember to keep garage overhead doors closed, especially at night.

Door Locks

The strongest are deadbolt locks with a minimum of a one-inch throw bolt containing a hardened, saw-resistant steel insert. Attach the strike plate to the door frame with 3 to 4-inch screws. Make sure the cylinder of the lock has a steel guard – a ring around the key section. The cylinder guard should be tapered, or it should rotate around the key section to prevent wrenching.

Remember, a "double-cylinder" deadbolt, which requires a key to lock/unlock from each side, can also block your exit in an emergency.

Patio/Sliding Doors

Use additional locks and security bars that prevent the door from sliding and/or being lifted out of the track. Security locks/bars can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Windows

Always close and lock your windows when leaving. Try not to leave windows cracked open at night unless pins are installed to limit the opening of windows to a few inches.

Key Control

Practice good key control.

- Label keys with a code indicating back door, receiving door, display case, etc.
- Engrave "Do Not Duplicate" on all keys.

Alarms

After installing an alarm, let burglars know by putting warning signs in windows, entrances or even a small sign posted in the front lawn/landscaping. Every alarm system should include a battery backup in case of a power outage.

Remember

Locks and alarms cannot prevent a burglary unless they are used. Establish a routine when leaving home or going to sleep at night that includes a routine security check to ensure windows and doors (and vehicles outside) are locked, alarm system is activated, if installed, etc.).

Notify a trusted neighbor, family and/or police if you are planning to be away from home for a few days. Submit a vacation check request form for the police department to check on your property while you are away. Form obtained at www.pittsfield-mi.gov

