

Tips on keeping safe  
Jun 13, 2010

As homeowners who are concerned that we are doing all that we can to make our properties as safe as they can be, late spring and early summer present us with opportunities to do just that. It is the perfect time to make sure that the trees shrubs and bushes are trimmed so that they do not provide concealment to those wishing to victimize us. So go outside and trim the trees so that you can see a person standing under the branches. Prune the bushes so that only the rabbits and birds can be concealed in them. See to it that your plants do not cast shadows large enough for a person to hide in.

While you evaluate the greenery in your yard, also look at the other features that impact the safety of your property.

Are all your outside lights working? Do you have dusk to dawn lighting or motion lighting and are they in proper working order? Do you have sufficient lighting to allow you to identify a face from across your yard? Do any of your trees obstruct the lighting and prevent it from providing full effectiveness? Are your walkways well lit so that you can see any hazard or threat to your safety?

Is your address or fire number located at the end of your driveway and unobstructed so that Ambulance, First Responders Fire and Police can get to you as quickly as possible during an emergency?

How can you most effectively summon help? If you do not have neighbors who live close enough to hear you yell for help how will you get help? There are many methods to address this issue; Carry your wireless home phone or cell phone with you whenever you go outside. If you do not have a cell phone, remember that any cell phone whether it has a service provider or not can be used to call 911. Get an old one from a friend neighbor or relative and keep it with you when you are working in the yard. Consider a life line that you wear on your person. Remember, these devices can be used to call for help when you do not have the ability to place a telephone call.

Locking the doors to your home, garage, shed and outbuildings will take you far in the enhancement of our personal safety. Lock everything! "I don't lock my doors, if they really want to, they will get in and I don't want to have to replace the door frame" is flawed thinking. Our experience has been that most burglars prefer to enter through an unlocked or open door and that if they find a closed locked door, they move on to an easier target. Remember, a little bit of information and a lot of vigilance will keep you safe in most situations!

I have attached a link to several websites, take a look at them.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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