Crime Prevention Home Security Checklist

- ☐ 1. Do you keep a list of all valuable property? Is at least one copy kept outside your home?
- ☐ 2. Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your valuable property (watches, cameras, computers, TVs, etc.)?
- ☐ 3. Do you have descriptions/photographs of valuable property from each room in your home (and closets)?
- ☐ 4. Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank? Consider renting a safe deposit box for important papers.
- ☐ 5. Do you plan so that you don't need to "hide" a house key under the doormat or in a similar location?
- ☐ 6. Do your family members know what to do if they discover a burglar in your home? Don't go in! Dial 911!
- ☐ 7. Do family members know to leave everything undisturbed and call the police if they discover a burglary?
- ☐ 8. Are trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?
- ☐ 9. Do you have a security closet with a solid-core door, non-removable hinges, and a deadbolt lock? For items of value.
- ☐ 10. Do you have emergency telephone numbers listed on your phone? In most areas of the country it is 911.
- ☐ 11. Is the outside of your home well lit? Do you have working porch lights? Is you yard well illuminated?
- ☐ 12. Is your house number easily visible from the street at any hour? Police need to see your number in an emergency.
- ☐ 13. Are ladders locked up and trellises and drainpipes eliminated that can be used as ladders to reach upper floor?
- ☐ 14. Are your exterior doors of solid-core construction? Hollow core wood doors offer little protection from break in.
- ☐ 15. Do your entry doors have wide-angle viewers? Needed so you can see out before opening the door.
- ☐ 16. Are your door's locks secure from being opened if a burglar breaks out a pane of glass or a panel of lightweight wood?
- ☐ 17. Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and a beveled cylinder guard?
- ☐ 18. Do doors without cylinder locks have a heavy deadbolt or similar security that can be operated only from the inside?
- ☐ 19. Can all of your doors (basement, porch, sliding, French, balcony) be securely locked?
- ☐ 20. Do your basement doors have locks that allow you to isolate that part of your home?
- ☐ 21. Are all of your locks in good repair?
- ☐ 22. Are the door strike-plates installed with three-inch screws? Three-inch screws will reach the stud inside the wall.
- ☐ 23. Do you know everyone who has a key to your home? Did you change the locks when you moved in?
- ☐ 24. Do all out-swinging doors in your home have non-removable pins?
- ☐ 25. Do sliding doors have a lock that locks both the door panels together or locks the active side to the frame?
- ☐ 26. Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp, or other good lock? Even doors with electric openers need locks.
- ☐ 27. Do you lock you garage door at night?
- ☐ 28. Do you make sure your garage door is locked when you're away from home?
- ☐ 29. Do you lock your car and take out the keys even when it is parked in your garage?
- ☐ 30. Are all windows in your home equipped with key locks, or pinned?
- ☐ 31. Are your window locks properly and securely mounted?
- ☐ 32. Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut?
- ☐ 33. Do you use locks that let you lock a window that is partly open?
- ☐ 34. Have you replaced or secured louvered windows?
- ☐ 35. In high-crime areas, do you use window bars or ornamental grilles? Make sure bars or grilles don't block fire escape.
- ☐ 36. Do you have secure locks on garage windows?
- ☐ 37. Do you cover garage windows with curtains or shades?
- ☐ 38. Are you as careful to secure basement and second-story windows as you are to secure windows on the first floor?
- ☐ 39. Do you use good telephone security procedures?
  - Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone.
  - Never let a stranger know that you are home alone.
  - Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home.
- ☐ 40. When planning a trip, do you secure your telephone? Consider call forwarding or at least check messages daily.
- ☐ 41. When you go on a trip, do you arrange for friends or neighbors to pick up newspapers, mail, packages, etc.?
- ☐ 42. Do you arrange to make your home look lived-in while you are away? Ask friends to pick up newspapers, mail, etc. daily. Consider light timers. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway and to put out your trash cans on garbage day.
- ☐ 43. Do you notify a neighbor that you'll be gone? Leave a key with a friend. Ask that your home be checked every so often.
- ☐ 44. Do you store all your valuables in a secure place while you're gone, such as a safe deposit box in a bank?