

## Preventing business burglaries

To reduce the chances that your business will become a target for burglary, take the following precautions.

- Don't leave cash in registers after hours; put cash in another location. If you must leave cash in registers, don't close the registers. This will prevent damage to the registers. The cost of replacing a register that has been broken into is far more expensive than losing startup money.
- Don't leave large sums of money on the premise. If possible, keep only the amount of money on the premise necessary to conduct business. Increase the number of daily cash drops, if necessary.
- Update your doors and locks. Replace single cylinder locks with double deadbolts. Add Charlie bars to rear entrances. Be sure door hinges and latches are exposed from the inside only.
- Maintain key control by limiting the number of employees with keys. Don't label keys or use a code that would be apparent to burglars.
- Make sure roof openings, skylights and air ducts are secured. Improve exterior views and lighting both during business hours and after closing. Keep bushes trimmed and advertising in windows at a minimum so passersby and patrolling officers have a clear view of the inside.
- Make sure the building interior is well lit.
- Consider installing or improving an alarm system. Then, make sure it's used consistently.
- Clear debris away from entrances to avoid giving burglars a place to hide.
- Make sure fences are in good condition.
- Lock up tools and ladders that can make a burglar's job easier.

For more information or to arrange a business premise survey, contact the police department's community outreach at 952.924.2661.