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Chief of Police

THE CITY OF FIRCREST

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Spring Break & Vacations – What you need to know!!

- ✓ Don't advertise that you are leaving town: Social media is a great way to share excitement with friends, but wait until after the trip to tell where you've been. Don't broadcast to the criminal element that you and your family will be away. If you have children, remind them not to blog about your family plans to be gone.
- ✓ Create an illusion of occupancy: while away, arrange for a trusted neighbor to pick up mail, newspapers, and door hangers. Have someone take the trash cans in and out so there is an illusion of occupancy.
- ✓ Put lights on timers so there is an established look of occupancy.
- ✓ Garage and windows: Keep your car locked and windows shut even if it is parked in the garage. and take your keys with you or place them in a safe place. If your house is broken into there is no need to provide the burglar with your car. Many people un-plug their garage door opener and lock their garage doors when they are out of town.
- ✓ Alarms: Make sure a trusted neighbor has a house key and a way to shut off your alarm in case it malfunctions.
- ✓ Make sure a neighbor or relative has your cell number or a way to get in contact with you in case of a home emergency.
- ✓ Don't forget about your pets: If you have pets, a pet sitter can be a valuable asset for crime prevention. The irregular schedule of a person coming and going from the residence, and the sound of a barking dog can be a great deterrent to a burglar.
- ✓ Be sure to call the Fircrest Police Department and/or fill out a "Vacation Check" form available on the Fircrest website. We will periodically drive-by of your home when you are away. You should also provide us with emergency contact information in case of a home emergency.
- ✓ Get a Security Survey: A Crime Prevention Officer will come to your house to perform a residential security survey. The survey is FREE and will include tips to help you protect your home from becoming a target. Call 253-565-1198 during regular business hours, (8:00am – 5:00pm Mon. – Fri. except holidays), to let us know you would like a survey and we will have an officer call you back to schedule an agreed upon time to meet.