

RESOURCES

Crime Prevention Unit (703) 792-7270

The Prince William County Police Crime Prevention Unit offers many services that may assist you in your recovery process. These free services include:

Home Security Survey—At your request, police personnel will come to your home and make recommendations on hardware that will enhance your existing security.

Crime Prevention Program—This program is presented in the community by a Crime Prevention Officer and covers recent neighborhood crime and presents crime prevention measures.

Neighborhood Watch — If you do not live in a Neighborhood Watch, you may want to consider starting a program in your neighborhood to combat crime.

Contact the Crime Prevention Unit for additional information on any of these topics.

Victim Witness Assistance Office (703) 392-7083

This is a special division of the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. You may contact this office when an arrest is made. They are available to provide help to crime victims and to guide them through the criminal justice system.

This office also sponsors the **McGruff House Program**. This is a program that identifies safe homes for children in need of emergency assistance. Complete information on this program is available through the Crime Prevention Bureau or the Victim/Witness Assistance Office.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Criminal Investigation Division

East: (703) 792-7265
West: (703) 792-6520



**Telecommunication Device
for the Deaf
TDD# (703) 792-6294**

**Police Non-Emergency
(703) 792-6500**

**Emergency
Fire—Rescue—Police
911**

*"not just a property
crime"*

Residential Burglary



**Case
Number:** _____

**Officer's
Name:** _____



**PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Dear Burglary Victim:

The impact that a burglary can have on you and your family can be very traumatic. It is not just a property crime.

Apprehending the criminal and trying to recover your property is now the responsibility of the police. Regardless of whether or not we are successful in our investigation, we want you to know that we are concerned about how this crime is affecting you. This brochure was designed to assist you in recovering from the effects of this experience.

*Charlie Deane
Chief of Police*

The Investigation

A uniformed police officer has taken the offense report. Also depending on the circumstances, the officer may have attempted to recover evidence, such as processing for latent fingerprints or canvassing the neighborhood for witnesses. This is what will happen next:

- A copy of the report will be placed on roll call for the patrol officers' review.
- The media officer will provide the hundred block address and some details of the offense to the local media (but not your name or exact address).
- The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) supervisor will designate the case as active or inactive, based on available evidence and solvability.
- Evidence will be held for investigative purposes. Recovered fingerprints can only be identified by our specialist if the burglar has been fingerprinted in the past. This is not usually the case with juveniles.
- Recovered stolen property may be marked for release from the police evidence room, unless needed for the investigation.



Active Cases

This designation is reserved for cases that have leads to be followed and a possibility of solvability. A lead would include:

- The name of a suspect, or a vehicle tag number.
- An identifiable fingerprint.
- A distinctive method of operation that ties it to other existing cases.

An active case will be assigned to a detective who will be in contact with you.

Inactive Cases

Your case is important to us, but without active leads it will be designated as "inactive." If a lead develops through other investigations you will be contacted by the detective handling your case. The fact is, a small number of burglars commit a high percentage of burglaries. Aggressive follow up of "active leads" is the best way for us to prevent further crimes in your area and often results in solving many burglary cases at one time.

TELE-SERVE

If you become aware of any additional information you should call the "Tele-Serve" Officer at (703) 792-6500. This officer will record the information and forward it to the CID supervisor for review.

CASE NUMBER

The case number is left with you by the patrol officer and serves as the tracking device for your report. Be sure to have it available when providing any information about your case.

Emotional Impacts

You can expect to have a wide range of emotional impacts as a result of this experience:

- **Shock and Disbelief.** It will be difficult to comprehend that an intruder was able to make entry into your home.
- **Disorientation.** It may take some time for you to get back into your normal routine.
- **Lack of Control.** Listing stolen property, filling out insurance forms and realizing that your property may not be recovered, will all contribute to a feeling of helplessness.
- **Fear.** You will have lost faith in the fact that you are secure in your home and it will take time for you to re-establish that security. This is particularly true for children, who may have difficulty sleeping and may need a lot of reassurance.
- **Anger.** This is often the strongest and most long term emotion felt by burglary victims.



Recovery

Reporting the crime to the police begins the recovery process, you can also:

- Initiate a "cleansing process" in your home. Redecorate, shampoo the carpets, etc.
- Talk to family and friends about the anger and frustration you feel.
- Take reasonable security measures to make your home more burglary resistant.
- Professional counseling is often a means for victims to regain control of their lives. Children should also be included.