

Residential Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

Home Safety:

- Ensure your house number is clearly visible from the street for first responders.
- Regularly check that your smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed and operational.
- Have sufficient fire extinguishers and fire blankets.
- Know where your home's water shut-off valve and electrical fuse box are located.
- Follow the guidelines for emergency preparedness such as those found on the Ready.gov website including building an emergency kit (food, water, first aid kit, weather radio, flashlight & more).
- Consider learning CPR and first aid skills. Talk to family members about your emergency plans.

Crime Prevention:

- Know your neighbors.
- Be on the look-out for suspicious behavior or activity.
- Make sure you lock your doors and windows, especially on the first floor. Two locking devices per door/window are recommended. Consider a lock/deadbolt upgrade.
- Check the lighting around your home to make sure it is working. Repair any broken lights or contact Duke Energy for streetlights that are inoperable.
- Do not leave valuables visible from your windows so anyone passing by can easily see them.
- Consider adding motion detector audible alarms to your windows or doors. Side and rear doors and windows are common entry points, as they are less visible to neighbors.
- Tall bushes near windows or doors provide cover for criminals. Look for ways to improve lighting, especially around these entry points.
- Check out a home improvement store and see what items are available to upgrade your home security.
- Do not open your door for anyone that you do not know. Keep your garage door closed.
- Secure personal property with appropriate locks (e.g. bikes have a U-bolt lock if outside; firearms are stored in a locked safe).

Traveling or Away from Home:

- Use at least two light timers if you will be away from home for an extended time.
- Stop mail, package, and newspaper deliveries or make arrangements with a neighbor to have them collected.
- Ask a neighbor or friend to tend to the yard or watch the home while you are away.

The Durham Police Department Emergency number is 911.

The Durham Police Department Non-Emergency number is (919) 560-4600.