



VAC HOA Meeting

Topic: Crime awareness and prevention

Subjects:

1. Door-to-door sales/Posers

- a. Increasing but not always legitimate. (Magazine sales, candy sales, chemical/cleaner sales, etc)
- b. Some pose as reps to gain access to the residence in order to scope out value of goods, alarm systems, egresses, number of family members, pets, etc
- c. Some are posers for utility companies, community services, fraternal organizations and more
- d. What to look out for, warning signs, “red/yellow” flags
 - i. Is the rep looking at YOU when the door is opened or past you?
 - ii. Does the rep state the company he is with and is he/she wearing identifiable markings of the company stated?
 - iii. Is there a car in the driveway or in front of the house or is the rep walking the neighborhood
 - iv. Does the rep ask to come in? Repeatedly? Make excuses to use the restroom? Asking for a drink/glass of water?
 - v. Do they have any literature they can leave for your review instead of just a verbal sales pitch?
 - vi. Pressuring you that they need to get answers while they are there/limited time to act.
 - vii. Use common sense; does the rep fit the profile of the company they represent? Example, if selling for WowWay, do they dress reasonably professional? Are they appropriately groomed? Are they wearing baggy pants and hoodies?
- e. What are some things you can do when there is a knock at the door?
 - i. Turn the porch light on at dusk
 - ii. Use the peep hole before opening the door
 - iii. Do not let children answer the door
 - iv. Do not open the door all the way and always keep a hand on the door in case you need to shut it fast.
 - v. Grab a cordless phone when answering the door in case you need to call 911 quickly
 1. Delaware County Non-emergency # 740.833.2800
 - vi. Keep the storm door locked, do not unlock and open it if the person is unknown
 - vii. Look for a vehicle, note color, description or if another person is “waiting”
 - viii. Ask for ID, you are the homeowner and you get to decide if an ID is legit. A hanging badge around someone’s neck does not make them legit, anyone can make these, ask for driver’s license.
- f. What are your Options?
 - i. Don’t answer the door
 - ii. You may create a non-solicitation sign.
 1. Example: We do not accept solicitors at this residence with exception to Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts or Olentangy School District Fund Raisers
 - iii. If you are not comfortable with the rep, you DO NOT have to let them in. Respectfully ask for the corporate number of their business and explain you will call them to arrange a meeting if you are interested in the product.
 - iv. Ask for literature before making a decision but use caution when they are offering it to you.
 - v. Ask the person to leave

2. Unknown vehicles driving the neighborhood
 - a. Many burglaries are planned in advance. Criminals are smart enough to case a potential target before making a move.
 - i. Watch for cars driving by that are unfamiliar
 - ii. Watch for parked cars that you do not recognize
 - iii. Criminals play on our ignorance, they like it when we do our daily routines and ignore our surroundings
 - iv. This activity is increasing more at night since it is harder to identify vehicles and drivers
 - v. Many people are actually followed home after such events as shopping or leaving work
 - b. What they look for
 - i. Open garages
 - ii. Routines, comings and goings
 - iii. What you are unpacking from your cars
 - iv. Deliveries, Best Buy, etc
 - v. At night, open curtains or blinds reveal everything in your home. The interior lights will illuminate your surroundings but you can't see out your windows as well. Technically, you and your family are "on display"
 - vi. Security systems, pets, family members (how many)
3. Be aware, Be prepared
 - a. Paying attention is the single most important deterrent
 - b. Informing your neighbors of unusual activity
 - c. Contacting the VAC HOA to help get information out through newsletters and email
 - d. Communicating with your children
 - i. Teach them what to look for
 - ii. Explain what safe behavior is (i.e shutting doors, not opening to strangers, etc)
 - e. Change your locks, deadbolts if you are not an original homeowner
 - f. Check your window locks
 - g. Alarm your home, use a reputable monitoring company