



Let us work together to protect ourselves and our assets from criminals

DEAR PROPERTY AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Undoubtedly, crime is on the increase and sadly this includes the Blackheath CID area.

Currently, the type of crimes we experience are focused on Business Burglaries. These cases are mostly happening at night. Opportunities are also created in the early morning when businesses are opened for the day. Front gates, doors and side entrances are then left open for other staff to enter as they arrive for work. This makes your business extremely vulnerable for opportunistic criminal action.

Please can you help us fight crime by taking the following actions as soon as possible:

- 1. Please test your alarm system thoroughly with your alarm service provider and make sure it works*
- 2. Please check that your alarm system is linked to all doors that provide access to your business including roller shutter doors*
- 3. Please make sure your fire escape doors are secure - there is a tendency for criminals to now focus on access through these doors*
- 4. Please secure items of value in a secondary lock-up area when locking up your business - Laptops, cell phones and other small valuable devices can easily be locked away with little effort*
- 5. Please be careful who you hire to do work in and around your business, especially when it comes to casual labour*
- 6. If you have a sliding gate in front of your premises - please check that you*

cannot "lift it off the tracks" easily - a knowledgeable installer will quickly show you how you can install measures to prevent this

7. We are still finding premises with gates wide open and unsecured at night - please lock your premises thoroughly before your leave

As an additional response to all matters crime-related, we have prepared the **CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT GUIDE TO CRIME PREVENTION – INCLUDING SAFETY TIPS**

Some of the basic tips are included below but we have dedicated an entire page of the Blackheath CID website to Safety Tips covering the following topics: – Please [click here](#) to follow the link to our webpage?

- Safety Tips to Prevent Property Crime
- Business and Retail Security
- Dealing with Cash in Your Business
- Be Careful Who You Hire
- Safety Tips for Commuters & Staff Using Public Transport
- ATM Security
- Safety Tips to Avoid Hijackings
- Why Criminals Outsmart Motorists in Smash and Grabs
- Safety Tips in Rainy Weather
- Don't Be a Victim of Cyber-Crime

The most important element for all readers of this guide is to change your mindset. If you are under the impression, albeit subconsciously, that crime only affects others, then it's time for a reality check.

Prevention is better than cure, therefore we urge property and business owners to make every effort to prepare their properties, businesses, staff and themselves against criminal action.

Although we distribute local SAPS and Law Enforcement contact details we suggest the following: "If there is an emergency, call 10111. You could be wasting time in an emergency if you contact a sector vehicle or local SAPS. A sector vehicle could be attending to another crime. It is best to call 10111 because available police officers will attend. People also tend to call the SAPS first if someone is stabbed or shot for example. In instances like this, first call an ambulance. It could save the person's life.

We scoured various guides and articles on safety and security and have summarised the following safety tips and guidelines. We realise that not all these may be applicable to everyone, nor do we suggest that our lists are comprehensive and all-encompassing. We do however believe that these tips

make good business sense.

SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT PROPERTY CRIME

Ensure that your property can be secured properly. This includes checking all locks, gates, doors, windows and roller shutters.

Ensure there are no gaps in your fence or perimeter wall or unintentional points of access to your home which may need additional security.

Make sure that all bushes or trees close to your walls, gates and fences are trimmed, to avoid the possibility of intruders hiding behind them or using them to access your property.

Adequate lighting around the perimeter of your house acts as a good deterrent.

Connecting outdoor lights to timers and motion sensors act as an additional deterrent.

Have an alarm installed by a reputable security company with armed response.

The key to effective security lies in being able to detect a potential intruder before they gain access. Adding detection beams and sensors of electrical fences vastly contributes to property security

Ensure that your alarm is in working order. Business and property owners should test their alarms at least once a month and should the system require servicing this should be arranged as early as possible.

Please ensure that all the key holder information is available and ensure that key holders are available and able to come out to the property should the alarm activate, and checking be required.

Don't leave ladders, spades or tools outside as these can be excellent break-in tools.

Ensure that remote controls for automatic gates and garage doors are not left lying around.

Always be alert to vehicles or persons following you into your entrance or the parking area.

Access control

If people arrive to read electricity or water meters on your property, insist on seeing official identification and if possible, follow up with the relevant

department before you allow them in.

Be aware that people may present themselves with a ruse that they are doing collections for various 'charities' – this is almost guaranteed to be a scam.

**Kind regards,
Brendan van der Merwe**

Credit to Gene Lourentz and Geocentric

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