

can be seen from your house or a neighbor's

- If machines must be left out for a long periods of time, disable them by removing the rotor, distributor or battery.

GURARD YOUR CROPS

- Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations.
- Consider marking grain, hay or similar crops with nontoxic confetti that is easily removed by storage or processing facilities.
- Keep a record of your valuable timber. Mark each with a paint stripe.
- Keep storage areas neat and well organized so that any theft will be noticed immediately. This also warns potential thieves that the owner is watchful.

Check employees' references before they start and talk about your crime prevention measures.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Get together with others in the community to start Neighborhood or Ranch Watch group. Involve all ages and work with law enforcement. Recruit from churches and civic groups. Use CB radios or cell phones to patrol and report suspicious activities to the Sheriff.
- When you go away, stop delivery of your

mail or newspapers or ask a neighbor to pick them up. You want to create the illusion that someone's home and following everyday routines. Have neighbors check your property and return the favor when they leave on business or vacation trips.

TAKE A STAND!

- Ask equipment dealers and farm suppliers to display crime prevention information.
- If your school district doesn't have an alcohol, drug and crime prevention curriculum in place, help start one.
- Check out recreational opportunities for teens - work with schools, 4-H or Future Famers to fill gaps, both after school and on weekends.
- Educate young people about the hazards of operating orchard machinery and being around livestock. For example, tractors are involved in 69% of farm machinery deaths and young people raised on ranches often operate these machines at an early age



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Crime Prevention Tips From

National Crime Prevention Council
2345 Crystal Drive
5th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202
202-466-6272
www.npc.org

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
Just Because You Live in the Country



Chelan County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention

Rural communities have their own unique crime problems -- like theft of crops, timber, livestock, orchard and farm equipment. Vandals do more than break mail boxes, they can destroy crops and fields. Alcohol and drug abuse problems plague rural youth as well as those in the suburbs and cities. And of course, crimes like burglary, rape, assault and auto theft happen in rural areas, but less frequently than cities.

Invest some time and money in prevention now. What's the payoff? Better security around your property, less worry about crime and your family's safety.

Be a good neighbor -- when you're out and about, keep an eye on neighbors' homes, livestock and equipment. Tell them and the sheriff about anything that makes you uneasy or suspicious.

CHECK THE DOORS AND LOCKS

- **Make sure outside doors -- in your home and outbuildings -- are solid wood or metal and have a deadbolt lock.**
- **Use the locks!**
- **Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks or with a wooden dowel in the track to jam the door in case someone attempts to open it. Insert screws in the upper track going into the fixed frame, to prevent anyone from lifting the door from its track.**

- Secure double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash and part way through the outside sash. Secure basement windows well.



Check the outside

- Keep your house, driveway and outbuildings well-lighted at night. Use timers that automatically turn on outside lights when it gets dark.
- Consider motion sensors that set off lights or alarms.
- Prune back shrubbery that hides doors, windows, lights and would-be burglars.
- Keep your fences in good repair. Secure all access roads with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented in the ground. Make them visible with flags or streamers.
- Warn thieves that you're on the alert with "No Trespassing," "No Hunting," and other signs on your property

MARK EQUIPMENT AND LIVESTOCK

- Operation Identification -- marking tools, guns, orchard ladders and other equipment with a permanent identification number such as your driver's license, has helped reduce theft in many rural areas. Contact area law enforcement for additional information.
- To help stop modern rustlers, tattoo all livestock. Although easier, ear tags can be removed. Mark your stock soon after birth.
- Take regular counts of livestock and orchard equipment.

PROTECT YOUR EQUIPMENT

- Secure gas pumps, gas tanks, storage bins with sturdy padlocks or deadbolts. Keep small equipment -- like mowers, bikes, snowmobiles -- locked in a barn or garage. Keep guns locked and unloaded in a secure place away from children and would-be thieves.
- Never leave keys in vehicles.
- Always lock your vehicles when not in use. Don't leave tools in open truck box or unsecured box.
- Don't leave major equipment in the orchard or field overnight. Lock it in a barn or shed near the house, or park where it