



## Yeadon Police Department Home/Personal Security Assessment



### Home and Personal Safety

The Yeadon Police Department actively patrols your neighborhood. However, we can't be everywhere. Crime Prevention works when a partnership exists between citizens and the police. In addition to never hesitating to report suspicious or criminal activity, securing your home and being aware of your surroundings can reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of crime. Take the time to answer all of the questions in this survey. If you are able to answer yes to each question; *nice job*, because you are taking home and personal safety seriously. If you answer no, to any of these questions, please take the steps to learn or ask a police officer what you can do to improve your safety and the security of your home. We are here for you. All you have to do is ask.

#### *Is your home an easy target?*

Yes No

- 1. Is your house number visible from the street, with numbers at least 3" high?
- 2. Can your neighbors see your home? If they can't; we can't, but burglars will.
- 3. Do you know your neighbors, and those who live there?
- 4. Are your trees, bushes, plants, pruned to prevent hiding places near windows/doors?
- 5. Do you have a privacy fence? Looks nice, but burglars love the ability to hide.
- 6. Do you have motion lights on, or leave lights on in the front and back, home or not?
- 7. Do you lock your doors and windows whenever you leave, regardless of how long?
- 8. Do you leave keys hidden outside? If you answer yes, don't tell me, just go get them.
- 9. Do you lock your attached/detached garage and/or shed?
- 10. Do any locks you use deter excess force or the use of bolt cutters to defeat the lock?
- 11. Have you actually walked around your property to determine how a burglar might get in?
- 12. Live in an apartment? Do you notify management when lights, locks, or other security issues are not working?
- 13. Do you report suspicious conditions, persons, or crimes you see when they are happening?
- 14. Do you know about and participate in Yeadon's #MissionLockItUp program?

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## *Doors and Windows*

Yes No

- 1. Are your doors/locks solid enough to withstand a burglar's pry bar or shoulder?
- 2. Is any glass or window within 36 inches (arm's reach) of your door's lock?  
If so, reinforce or remove them.
- 3. Do your patio or French double doors have a deadbolt into a stationary door, that is secured by header and threshold bolts into metal strikes plates. These doors are typically weak due to all the glass, consider a device to add some additional security, such as a door security bar.
- 4. Do you use extra security devices/measures for your sliding glass doors? Sliding glass doors need extra security against prying and lifting. A charley bar, broom handle, cut piece of 2 by 2 framing wood can prevent unwanted opening. You can also use screws into the top track, backed out to just clear the top of the door, to prevent lifting the door out of the track.
- 5. Is there a wide-angle viewer installed in your front / back doors? If so can your kids reach it?
- 6. Do you lock the doors going into the garage from your house or yard?
- 7. Do you lock your garage, even if you're home?
- 8. Do your exterior basement doors have extra protection?
- 9. Do your basement windows work properly and lock?
- 10. Do you lock ALL of your windows whenever you leave your home?
- 11. Do you shut your blinds and curtains when you leave?  
Window shopping isn't just at the mall.

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## *Home Security and Safety*

- 1. New home? Have you had all your door locks re-keyed or replaced?
- 2. Do you have a home security system, which you actively use? Remember this will not stop a burglar, it will only hurry them, if they decide to enter your home regardless of sound/signs.
- 3. Do you have a security camera system that you actively use?
- 4. Do you use automatic timers on lights; TV's, and radios in your home?
- 5. Do you ask trusted neighbors to watch your house if you are going to be gone over night?
- 6. Do you ask a trusted neighbor to pick up newspaper, mail, and deliveries when you are away?
- 7. Do you ask your neighbor to maintain you lawn or remove snow when gone for vacation, etc.?
- 8. Do you have your neighbor park an extra car in your driveway when you are away?

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- 9. Does your home look “like someone’s home” even if you aren’t?
- 10. Do you alert your Police Department when you are going away, so we can do spot checks?
- 11. Do you provide info to a neighbor or police for whom to call in an emergency when away?
- 12. Have you recorded/photo’d the make, model, and serial numbers of all of your valuables?
- 13. Do you actively check your bank accounts for potential fraud and know who to call to cancel credit and/or bank cards, if lost or stolen?

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### *Personal Safety*

- 1. When walking, do you present an alert and confident appearance; are you aware of people and your surroundings? *Appear timid and unaware, criminals will consider you a target.*
- 2. When possible do you walk near the curb facing traffic, avoiding shrubbery, dark doorways, and other places of concealment? *Avoid shortcut, alleys, and unfamiliar areas with little pedestrian or other traffic present.*
- 3. Do you carry items such as purses firmly, and avoid leaving them unattended, in a shopping cart, or on the back of a chair while out? *Thieves will distract you while a second thief walks off with your belongings.*
- 4. Are you familiar with police stations, hospitals, stores, and gas stations that are open at night that can provide access to safety if needed?
- 5. Do you know that wearing headphones can distract you, and make you unable to potentially recognize danger whether its criminals, traffic, or other hazards while walking?
- 6. Do you always lock your car while driving and when you get out?
- 7. Before you enter your vehicle, do you look around, have your keys ready, and look inside to ensure it is clear?
- 8. Do you have a working flashlight in your car?
- 9. Do you put all packages in your trunk instead of your back seat, unless you’re headed home?
- 10. Have you taught your kids what to do and how to ask for help in an emergency?
- 11. Have your taught your kids what to do if you’re out and you get separated?
- 12. If you possess a firearm, do you responsibly secure it when home so kids won’t access it, and taught your kids about gun safety? *Need a gun lock? Stop at Yeadon PD for a free one!*
- 13. Have you taught your kids about bullying?
- 14. Have you taught your kids about alcohol/drug abuse?
- 15. Have you gotten your free Child ID Kit for peace of mind? *Stop at Yeadon PD for one!*

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This home/personal security/safety survey can help you identify weaknesses in your security that may provide an opportunity for a criminal to make you a victim of crime. While nothing can make your home completely burglar proof, or help you absolutely avoid crime; if you follow simple advice, stay aware and informed, and actively take personal protection seriously, you CAN give yourself an edge in staying safe.

A community is not safe just because the police make a lot of arrests. A community is safe when the residents work together with police to deter and prevent crime by creating an atmosphere for minimal chances of successful criminal conduct to occur in the mindset of criminals. This happens when you take personal safety seriously; speak up, report suspicious and criminal activity, and look out for one another.

*Have questions yourself about something? Stop an officer and just ask.*

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