When a burglar breaks into your home or business they can be in and out in as little as three minutes, carrying your property with them.

Alarm systems help but tend to hurry the criminal, not prevent them from executing the crime.

An alarm is designed to summon the police but rarely are officers ever in the position to catch a burglar at the scene of the crime.

The opportunity for intervention at the front of the crime is gone within minutes. But stolen property carries with it the ability to lead police back to the scene of the crime, even back to the perpetrators. Unique serial numbers and your comprehensive property inventory list can help police solve property crimes.

With advances in technology, televisions, digital cameras, and computers have all become smaller and lighter, making it easier for criminals to handle. Due to this fact, it is very important that homeowners and business owners record their property information.

Record Existing Serial Numbers

Televisions, DVD players, Blu-ray players, digital cameras, and computers all have manufacturer applied serial numbers.

If you will record your serial number and a description of your items that will greatly aid the police in returning your property if it is stolen.

Example:
Sony 32” Flat Screen LCD television
Serial #123456789

It would also be beneficial to take a photo of the listed item for your records.

Operation ID

Operation ID is the marking of your personal property with your Texas Drivers License number. There are several ways to mark your property. The best tool to use is an engraver. Engraving tools are available at the Richardson City Library and can be checked out like a book.

How to Mark Your Property

- Mark your property in a location that is not readily visible.
- Mark it in a manner that it cannot be easily removed.

Here is an example of how to mark it with ***your*** *Texas Drivers License:*

TX12345678DL

Be sure to place a box around the letters and numbers so no one can add any digits.

New Technology

Advances in technology have been developed to record and store your personal information.

Here are a few suggestions on how to go about this:

Electronic documents such as Microsoft Word documents and Excel spreadsheets allow for storage of your property inventory on your home computer.

Simply create a spreadsheet and itemize any valuables in your home. Save this list in your email so you will have access to this information, even if your computer is stolen.

INSURANCE INFORMATION INSTITUTE

Know your stuff is a secure internet storing house for individuals or businesses to record property data.

The website is an offsite location where serial numbers and pictures can be stored in the event of a burglary, theft or fire.

This is a simple tool that is free to the public.

All that is needed to access it is a home or office computer and internet accessibility.

Simply go to their website address at www.knowyourstuff.org

In the event your inventory list is ever needed login your account from any computer, print out your list, and provide it to your insurance company and police department.

Electronic Tracking Devices

Programs can be installed on computer hardware that notify a server when the item is stolen and used on the internet. Some items such as laptops and cell phones can be equipped with GPS and/or Lojack to help in their recovery.

There are frequent advances in property marking technology, such as microdot, microchip, etc. The best way to protect yourself is to stay informed of new options.

Inventory Guide

Use this brochure to record and transfer your property information into your electronic media or the option of your choice.

Property Description _____

_____

Make_____

Model_____

Serial #_____

Marked with TX DL: Yes__ No__

Photograph taken: Yes__ No__

Property Description _____

_____

Make_____

Model_____

Serial #_____

Marked with TX DL: Yes__ No__

Photograph taken: Yes__ No__

Property Description _____

_____

Make_____

Model_____

Serial #_____

Marked with TX DL: Yes__ No__

Photograph taken: Yes__ No__

Property Description _____

_____

Make_____

Model_____

Serial #_____

Marked with TX DL: Yes__ No__

Photograph taken: Yes__ No__

Protect Your Property!

A How to Guide to Help Prevent Theft and Ways to Get Your Property Back If You Are Burglarized

For more information
please contact the
Crime Prevention Unit
972-744-4955
www.cor.net/pd