

Mountie Moments

With warmer weather upon us and everyone becoming busier, whether it's getting work done around your property or getting away for a holiday, RCMP want to remind the public to ensure their homes and vehicles are secured while they are away. Often criminals will look to check to see if a home or vehicle is unlocked, leaving it an easy target to rummage through and get their hands on valuables that are easy to sell and difficult to prove ownership.

Alberta has seen a spike in stolen vehicles and break and enters into residences. The RCMP want to inform the public that criminals are always developing strategies on how to victimise communities and residents, whether that is in the rural or municipal areas. We ask that all residents secure their residences when they are not home, vehicles and more particularly when residents travel away in the travel trailers or campers. Criminals are targeting vehicles that are insecure and rummage through the vehicle by removing the following items; garage door openers, and the vehicle registration.

Why are criminals taking these items? The registration provides the address of the owner and the garage door open offers a free entrance point into that address. Criminals will park on the driveway or even drive into the garage, park inside and close the door, which would allow them as much time that they need to go through your home and remove valuable items such as jewelry, cash, firearms, electronics etc.

In order to prevent you from being a victim lock your doors to your homes and vehicles. Remove your garage door openers from the vehicle. If you leave for the day or week(s), months etc., have someone check your property, lock your door to the garage leading into your residence. Have lights on motion detectors or timers, watch and be mindful of people and vehicles that don't belong in your neighborhood. Report everything to the police.

RCMP have some tips to keeping your home and vehicle from being a target:

- Make sure all windows and doors are secured and locked when you leave
- Inform your neighbours if you are leaving for an extended period and notify them who (if anyone) will be checking on your property
- Have lights on timers for the evening or motion sensors
- Consider installing a security camera system
- Keep all vehicles locked and remove valuables from plain sight
- Never leave the keys inside an unattended vehicle, no matter the time of day or need for multiple drivers to have access

As always, report any suspicious activity to your local RCMP Detachment, 24/7:

- Turner Valley RCMP – 403-933-4262
- High River RCMP – 403-652-2356
- Okotoks RCMP – 403-938-4202

Stay safe and keep any eye out for one another.

Rural Crime Statistics for
May 2024 in Foothills County Area

