

Tips to Protect Yourself from Theft

1 It seems as if summer has passed by so fast. Many people have been coming and going through
2 our city, enjoying Canyon Lake and all that it has to offer. This year, on the Fourth of July
3 holiday we saw a record number of visitors to our community. With increased visitors, it is
4 important that we at the Canyon Lake Police Department (CLPD) address trends we are seeing.

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6 One of the most recent trends has been an increase in petty theft, generally unsophisticated crimes of
7 opportunity, such as taking property from unlocked cars and boats, or an open garage. The property
8 taken is usually smaller items such as, wallets, purses, cell phones and the occasional bike or golf
9 equipment. It is not out of the ordinary for us to see small increases in these kinds of theft related
10 crimes during the summer months when there is a large influx of people in and out of the city for the
11 holidays, parties or even juvenile mischief.

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13 At the CLPD we have stepped up our patrol and are on the look out for those attempting to commit
14 these crimes. While we continue to do our part to maintain Canyon Lake as one of Southern
15 California's safest communities, we would like to provide you with the following tips you can take
16 to protect yourself from becoming a victim of theft:

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- 18 ▪ Roll up your windows and lock you car doors when you park, even if it is in the
- 19 heat of the day or only for a moment.
- 20 ▪ Don't leave valuables in your car or boat in plain sight.
- 21 ▪ Keep your vehicle/boat in a driveway, rather than on the roadway.
- 22 ▪ Keep your garage door closed when you or a family member are not personally
- 23 out there.
- 24 ▪ Lock the doors to your home when you leave.
- 25 ▪ Lock up bikes to bike racks or store them securely at home when not in use.
- 26 ▪ Take the keys out of your boat/golf cart/vehicle ignition and store them securely
- 27 inside your home.
- 28

29 Many of the thefts we handle in the city are a result of residents not following these basic tips. So
30 by doing all of the above, you can help protect yourself and your property. Simple steps like
31 locking your front door and keeping track of valuables will pay off when it comes to keeping
32 your property safe. In addition, take a moment to record the serial numbers and photograph your
33 valuables. Store these records in a safe place. In the event that a theft does occur, this type of
34 documentation could help the police recover your property.

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36 At the CLPD we are proud that the City of Canyon Lake is one of the safest in Southern California,
37 and we are committed to keeping it that way. Together, we can ensure the City of Canyon Lake
38 remains a great place to live, raise a family or enjoy a weekend with friends. Until next time, Deputy
39 Kenneth Guilford – CLPD

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41 Deputy Guilford can be reached at (951) 244-2955 X16 or email: kguilfor@riversidesheriff.org