



Top 10 Tips for a Safe Summer in Calgary

from Const. Pete BARKER your Community Liaison Officer

As the weather gets warmer, we all want to relax outside and enjoy the short summer season, but we don't need to give criminals easy opportunities. Here's how to avoid common summer issues.

- 1.** Keep your garage doors closed – don't make it easy for a passersby to snatch a bicycle or garden tool.
- 2.** Close your windows at night, even if it's hot (use a fan or portable air conditioner if it's too hot to sleep). Open windows, even on the second floor, leave you vulnerable to break-ins.
- 3.** Lock your doors and windows when you're in your yard. Unlocked front doors provide easy entry to thieves if you're in the backyard, and vice versa.
- 4.** Know where your children are. Establish rules about where they're allowed – and not allowed – to go. Keep an age-appropriate eye on them; older children who are out of sight should check in with you regularly. If they miss a check-in, either they need you or you need to know what they're doing.
- 5.** If you're going on vacation, make arrangements for your home to look lived in; cancel newspapers and mail deliveries, have the lawn mowed and the garbage put out (and bins put away), have neighbours park in your driveway if possible and set lights and radios on timers.
- 6.** Roll up your vehicle windows and lock your doors when you park. Yes, it will be hot when you get back inside, but a locked vehicle is far less likely to be broken into or stolen while you're away from it.
- 7.** Never leave children or pets unattended in vehicles. This is illegal and could be potentially fatal. A vehicle interior heats up dangerously quickly in the summer, so never leave your loved ones in the car.

8. Keep an eye on your neighborhood, including pocket parks and playgrounds. Are they being used for their intended purpose, or are they becoming a source of parties late at night or criminal activity? Report non-emergency problems to the Calgary Police Service at 403-266-1234.

9. Watch for the telltale signs of graffiti vandals. If you spot spray-painted or etched graffiti, remember "Record, Report and Remove." Record by taking pictures of the damage, report it by writing the date, time and location on the back of the photo, signing it and dropping it off at the nearest district office or emailing it to cpsgraffiti@calgarypolice.ca (you can also call 9-1-1 to report graffiti vandalism in progress or 403-266-1234 to report graffiti damage). Visit www.calgary.ca for clean-up tips.

10. Learn to recognize a marijuana grow-op house through signs such as: blacked out windows; people driving into the garage and closing the doors before leaving the vehicle; people continually bringing items concealed in garbage bags in and out; minimal furniture on move-in; minimal garbage disposal; yards not maintained; construction sounds with no visible development; humming sounds; "skunky, " mothball, air freshener or fabric softener odours; tampered electrical meters; and condensation or wet spots on home exteriors. Call police at 403-266-1234 to report your concerns.

For more information about staying safe in your community, please call the District 8 Office or contact your Community Liaison Officer Const. Pete Barker at 403-567-6800.