

## Has this happened to you? It Could!!!

You just arrived home from a long day at work, running a quick errand or a trip to the grocery store to find that someone has entered into your residence and many items of value have been taken. You realize that you have been victimized by a burglar.

You quickly call 911. Officers arrive and confirm that the suspect is indeed gone. An officer takes a report, and you ask if there is any chance of recovering your property. Is there any chance? Sure, there is always a chance, but the more appropriate question is how likely is it that my property will be recovered, and the answer to that question depends, a great deal, on you, the victim.

To greatly increase the chances of recovery of your property in these types of situations you should take inventory of your property such as televisions, stereos, cameras, GPS units, computers, firearms, lawn equipment, jewelry\*, and anything else that you value. By taking inventory, you should record the following information for retrieval if you do become victimized:

- Make (ex: Panasonic)
- Model Number
- Serial Number
- Description (ex: HD TV)
- Photograph the specific property
- Owner applied number \*\*

\*Although jewelry typically does not have a serial number, note any inscriptions on the jewelry as well as a detailed description of each piece. Oftentimes, appraisals are very good resources. Good photographs of jewelry are helpful as well.

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\*\* Owner applied numbers are great for items that do not have serial numbers such as lawn equipment and hand tools. The best owner applied number is to use your driver's license number, (example TXDL#12345678-01) use additional numbers after the drivers license to make each number unique, (ex. 01 for your lawn mower, 02 for your edger, ect). How do I do this? Owner applied numbers can be put on items with an electric engraver or other engraving device. Electric engravers can be checked out from the police department.

Also don't forget to inventory items you may take away from your home on trips or going to work such as laptops, cell phones, Ipods, digital camera, ect.

This information, if quickly attainable when victimization occurs, should be provided to the initially responding officer taking your report. If it is not readily available, it can and should be provided to an officer in a follow up call referencing your report or service number.

Once an assigned detective receives your inventory of stolen property, the chance of your property being recovered is greatly enhanced since the detective will now be able to affirmatively identify your property. Although this information certainly does not guarantee that your property will be recovered, without it, the detective cannot effectively work your case, and it is probable that your case will be quickly suspended. So, please take a few minutes to do something to help yourself so that officers can help you when you are victimized by a burglar.

For more information on this and other Crime Prevention programs contact Officer Doug Sisk with the Duncanville Police Department's Crime Prevention Division (972) 780 -5027 or [dsisk@ci.duncanville.tx.us](mailto:dsisk@ci.duncanville.tx.us)



**Help the  
Duncanville Police  
Help you!**

**Let us help you  
Recover your property  
if it's stolen.**



