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24/7 MONITORING | VIDEO SURVEILLANCE | INSTALLATION | PATROL

Boyd Bugle

Winter 2021

Quarterly Dispatch

KEEP YOUR HOME OUT OF THE BURGLAR'S SPOTLIGHT

It seems like you are always trying to improve your home. Every weekend gets spent on landscaping and maintenance. If you have an HOA, you are even more motivated to keep the house looking neat and clean. However, there is one person that you don't want to impress. When the burglar decides to drive through the neighborhood, you want to make your home as unappealing to him as possible. Most burglaries are unplanned, so you need to help burglar decide at first glance. What exactly do they look for in a home? What do you need them to see? Home security systems play a big role in this.

First Impressions

The first thing you want a potential intruder to notice is the obvious. A yard sign and window stickers that show your home security company logo, and of course, a perimeter of cameras watching their every move will get his attention. A video doorbell is a great way to greet any unexpected visitor. This simple home security device makes it clear, right away, that you are recording them. Usually cameras positioned on the corners of the house are also visible and will catch any perimeter activity that occurs.

Don't Advertise

Although you may be proud of your home and what you have achieved, you don't need to let the criminals know. When you purchase that new game system, state-of-the-art TV, or laptop, don't leave the boxes sitting by your garbage. This is an easy way to let everyone know what is in the home. Instead, be sure to breakdown those boxes for recycling day. Keep in mind that you don't want to catch the burglar's eye with these items. Part of ensuring home security is not a device, but our actions.

Always Home Mode

Besides wondering what's inside, the burglar wants to make sure you are not home when he gets there. As stated above, don't advertise. Your vacation pictures will look just as good when you get back. Criminals know how to scroll through social media also. They notice that countdown you have been posting about how many days until your beach trip. Only tell the minimum amount of people necessary. The ones that will be your emergency contacts or housesitter need to know. Thankfully, with items such as a video doorbell, you are alerted to someone at your door. Then, you can speak with them from anywhere you may be. With the video and two-way conversation, the would-be intruder has no way of knowing if you are in the house or not. Of course, adding 24/7 alarm monitoring will complete your home security systems. Always have someone watching out for you when you are away.

Smart Home

Along the same lines as above, with smart home technology today, it is easier than ever to make it look like you are always home. With a smart home technology, it allows you to program, lights, TV, window blinds and more. With the smart home app, you can either schedule these things or manually manage them. This routine activity continues to occur at your home, whether you are there or not. An outsider driving by will assume you are home.

Concluding Suggestions

Home security systems today make life much safer, not to mention more convenient. At Boyd & Associates, we put our years of experience to use for you. We offer a variety of packages that custom fit your needs.

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If you have any questions or to setup automatic payment please contact our accounting department at ar@boydsecurity.com or call 805-650-3267 EXT. 2.

ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION TIPS



Winter typically means spending more time indoors, using more electricity, to heat our homes, power devices that keep us entertained and light up our houses indoors and outdoors during the holidays. Electricity is a hidden danger to the residents in your community. Because it is so frequently used, most people tend to underestimate the risk potential and dangers that come with electrical fires.

Electrical fires, while less common than other fires, can disproportionately destroy life and property. Electric arcs, sparks and heat from malfunctioning equipment or overloaded circuits can ignite surrounding material. Fortunately, you can keep yourself and your family safe from electrical fires with simple steps.

Take the time to check all the outlets throughout your home. Pay close attention to plugged in, active appliances. Major appliances like electric stoves, dish washers and washing machines, dryers and more should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord or power strip for major appliances. Also be sure to check wires for any cracks or damages. Prevention starts with checking your surroundings!

Fire prevention is simply paying attention to any potential risks. Are you noticing a flickering light or a tripped circuit breaker? Are your switches feeling hot to the touch?! Do you notice a leak during a heavy rainstorm? Make sure leak is not near any of your electrical outlets. Make sure your light bulbs are secured all the way and eliminate the potential that your wiring is faulty. Don't overload your circuits, use power strips and extension cords safely, protect cords from damage. Always hire license electricians for electrical work.

It is imperative to practice good safety habits; this includes installing smoke and heat detectors and testing monthly to ensure they are working. Every home should have an ABC fire extinguisher. Develop an evacuation plan for your home, with family members practicing it periodically. When fire devices are present and properly maintained, they give you precious time to react and escape in the event of a fire.

Call Boyd & Associates at 800.381.BOYD for more information.

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