**From Harris County Constable Office Precinct 5:**

**Residential burglaries** are a very traumatic experience for you and your families. Below are several safety tips that you can use, but one important fact that I want you to remember is to call us whenever you see anything suspicious or that just doesn’t look right. I can’t stress enough that we need your assistance as residents in the community to help combat crime:

**Doors and Locks**

* Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points
* Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt
* Use a quality, heavy-duty, knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism
* Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame
* Use a wide-angle 160° peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches

**Windows**

* Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices
* Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation
* Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window and unlock the door
* Make sure someone cannot reach inside the window and remove the blocking device
* Use anti-lift devices to prevent window from being lifted out
* Use crime prevention or alarm decals on ground accessible windows

**Lighting**

* Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy
* Use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
* Use light timers or photo-cells to turn on/off lights automatically
* Use infra-red motion sensor lights on the rear of single family homes

**Alarms**

* Alarm systems are effective deterrents with visible signage
* Alarm systems need to have an audible horn or bell to be effective
* Make sure your alarm response call list is up to date (Pct. 5)
* Instruct your key holder how to respond to an alarm bell

**Be a good Neighbor**

* Get to know all your adjacent neighbors
* Agree to watch out for each other's home
* While on vacation - pick up newspapers, and flyers
* Offer to occasionally park your car in their driveway
* Return the favor and communicate often