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VACATION SAFETY TIPS

After Memorial Day, people typically shift into planning for and going on vacations and other events that keep them away from their homes for extended periods. The Sioux County Sheriff's Office wants to offer you our tips on home safety while you are away.

- Avoid status updates on social media telling people you are gone or are currently at a certain destination away from your home. Burglars get free information this way when you let them know your home could be an easy target. Wait until you return home before sharing your trip information. Remember, the less information you put out there, the less likely it is to reach the wrong person.
- Ask someone to keep an eye on things while you are away or hire a house sitter that you trust. Have them do things like setting out garbage on trash pickup day and put away the empty garbage cans afterward.
- Install timers on your lights and electronics. If you have a home security system, remember to use it.
- Have someone mow the lawn. If you are diligent in mowing your lawn each week and then things look overgrown and neglected when your gone, it's easy to come to the conclusion that you are not around.
- Stop the mail and newspaper delivery until your return.
- Leave the blinds open if you normally do and likewise, keep them closed if this is normal for you.
- Lock your house and don't hide spare keys outside. Remember to include locking garage doors and any entry doors to the house within that area.
- Lock up any valuables inside a safe. Cash, jewelry and family heirlooms are some good things to secure.

A good rule of safety is to create the illusion that your residence is still occupied while you are away. The Sioux County Sheriff's Office wants you all to enjoy the summer months and minimize your chance of becoming a victim of crime while you are away.

