



HOLIDAY SEASON SECURITY TIPS 2019

Dear valued client,

Every year during November and December there is a definite spike in crime with house break and theft, theft out of motor vehicle; theft from motor vehicle; follow homes and common robberies dominating across all regions.

These crimes seem opportunistic at this time of year. Suspects are aware residents are starting to shop for the festive season and to entertain. There's no particular pattern in terms of times of the day these crimes are taking place but we can see that in a number of instances people have forgotten to arm their systems, or put on their beams. There is also a worrying trend of gates being left open. That is a problem as it is a home owner's first line of defence. In other instances we have found that criminals find a weak point in the perimeter security where they the electric fence is not working or the gates are not locked for example.

Here are some security tips to keep in mind:

- Gates – make sure that your gate opens and closes as quickly as possible. This means less time sitting in your driveway or the road where you are a vulnerable target to hijackers. Also ensure that the motor has a locked box covering it to stop any attempts at tampering. Remember to keep your gates closed at all times
- Bushes and trees – make sure that bushes and trees on your property are checked regularly to ensure they are not affecting your perimeter security. Branches should be cut back to prevent blocking or impeding the effective functioning of your perimeter security, or where they may be used to climb into and access your property
- Beams – make sure that beams are installed correctly and at the most optimal angle to increase their range and effectiveness. It is also important to make sure that these beams are not obscured by shrubbery, or near reflective surfaces to prevent excessive false alarm activations
- Carry remote panics with you at all times at home and equip your domestic staff with remote panics

- We are living in a tough economy and crime is definitely on the increase. Be aware of the heightened risks during this period and in the unfortunate event you and your family are a victim of crime please remember counselling is important.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING SECURITY IN MIND:

Be vigilant: It's not about being on high alert at all times, but rather to be more aware of what's happening around you, and being aware of possible unwanted situations - helping you to avoid them.

ALWAYS CALL FOR ASSISTANCE: Always call for assistance. If you hear something outside or a beam is disturbed, do not go and investigate. Alert Security provider and they will send a response vehicle to you.

AN ALARM SYSTEM IS SIMILAR TO A CAR: An alarm system is similar to a car. Sometimes it needs a little bit of maintenance. Make sure to test that it is working as intended, and that your security is receiving alarm signals.

THINK MORE LIKE A CRIMINAL: Think more like a criminal by trying to identify how you could break into your own home, identify weak points in your security as well as placement of objects (dog kennels, sheds, trees etc.) or what tools are left around and how easy it is to access them. Bolster your security with additional outdoor beams and CCTV cameras.

NB: If your home is left empty, it could be an easy target for burglars. Don't advertise your absence; make your home look lived in while you're away visiting family and friends. Set timers so lights, televisions and music systems are switched on and off, remember to cancel daily paper or milk deliveries, and always be sure to let a trusted neighbour know you'll be away so they can keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

Thank You and have a blessed festive season.

Regards

Fss estates management