

# Police Advisory

4th Precinct

August 21, 2009

## Facts:

A 4th Precinct burglary investigation has uncovered a specific MO used by residential burglars in the precinct. The burglars work in teams of two or more, communicating via cell phone. While one burglar is in the house, the other one acts as a lookout from a vehicle parked on the street. If anyone approaches the house while the burglary is in progress, the lookout warns his partner via cell phone.

**The Minneapolis Police Department is asking 4th Precinct residents to call 911 if they notice suspicious vehicles parked in their neighborhood whose occupants are on cell phones.**

## Other things you should do:

- **Call 911** to report suspicious activity. This includes vehicles circling the block with occupants you don't recognize, and strangers loitering or walking down your alley looking in garages/vehicles.
- Never leave your home or personal property unsecured. Lock all doors and windows when you leave home. **Always** lock your garage's service doors and overhead doors.
- Use double-cylinder deadbolt locks with 6" strike plates and 3" screws on all exterior doors. Deadbolts should have at least a 1" throw.
- Pin your double-hung windows, or use track fillers to prevent burglars from opening them.
- Keep your property well-lit. Install motion-sensor lights to cover your yard and driveway.
- Be alert to other people loitering nearby as you exit your home or vehicle.
- Organize or become involved in your local block club.
- Alert your neighbors and block club members to the problem and be sure to watch out for each other. **Remember, the majority of burglars caught in the act are caught because a neighbor reported seeing something suspicious.**
- Ask your crime prevention specialist to conduct a free Home Security Survey. He or she will give you many tips and ideas for making your home more secure and less vulnerable.

Call your crime prevention specialist for more information on block clubs, personal safety, or home security:

### South of Broadway:

CPS Tim Hammett (612-673-2866)

### Broadway to Dowling Ave:

CPS Mary Etzioni (612-673-3364)

CPS Jennifer Waisanen (612-673-5873)

### North of Dowling:

CPS Shannon McDonough (612-673-2805)

