

# ESCONDIDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Crime Suppression Division



## SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR BUSINESSES

### I. TO REPORT A CRIME

If the crime occurred in the **last 10 minutes and you desire prosecution, then call 911 immediately**. If the crime occurred **over 10 minutes ago and/or you do not desire prosecution, then call the Esccondido Police Department's non-emergency line at (760) 839-4722**.

Advise Dispatch of what you wish to report. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Can you identify the suspect and are you willing to prosecute?
- Where is the suspect? If they left, what is the direction of travel – what direction did the suspect go (north, south, east, or west)? Street names are very helpful.
- Did they leave on foot or in a vehicle? If in a vehicle, make, model, color, number of doors, and license plate number are very important and helpful.
- Description of the suspect(s), including race, sex, approximately age, height (use your door chart), weight, clothing description and color, hair color, length of hair, eye color, facial hair (smooth, beard, fuzz), tattoos or noticeable characteristics.
- Leave Dispatch your name, business name, address, and phone number.
- Do you desire prosecution? If so, you may be required to sign a citizen's arrest and also to testify in court.

### II. GENERAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

- **The Business Liaison Officer will be happy to come out and complete a site survey of your property. To schedule a site survey, call (760) 839-4948.**

- Key points to remember:

- ✓ Lighting – Interior and exterior, eliminates shadows in parking lots and around property.
- ✓ Doors – Steel, good construction, interior cross bars, hidden hinges.
- ✓ Locks – Top quality, the better the lock the more time it takes to break in – crook will pick easier targets, change locks when employee leaves.
- ✓ Windows – Clear visibility to see in and out – don't cover with displays/posters, etc., use of security bars, if needed.
- ✓ Safes – Limit cash on hand, anchor into ground/walls, etc., keep in illuminated location, change combination when employee leaves.
- ✓ Store Displays – Keep expensive merchandise away from doors/windows to prevent quick grabs, no ATM machine near door, no 18-packs near door.
- ✓ Roof – Check skylights/ventilation systems to ensure they can't be used to gain entry.
- ✓ Fences – Six foot high maximum, sturdy construction, wrought iron recommended, wire or wrought iron point topped.
- ✓ Alarm System – Good deterrent, post visible warning signs, audible vs. silent alerts, limitations – time/response/false alarms (fees).
- ✓ Video Cameras – Two major consideration, deterrent vs apprehension, clear picture is the biggest concern.