

# SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



## CAPS TIPS

*Brought to you by the Chicago Police Department  
Your Partners for Safe Neighborhoods*

### SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Summer is here – warm days followed by cool evenings are perfect for being outside. On the streets, in the parks and along the lake, Chicagoans are riding their bikes, in-line skating, walking, running or just enjoying the beauty of the city. To help you have a safe as well as enjoyable summer, the Chicago Police Department hopes you keep the following safety tips in mind.

**SECURE YOUR BICYCLES:** Bicycles are a great choice for fun and transportation, but there are some basic safety precautions you should take. First, register your bike with the Chicago Police Department. If your bike is ever stolen, this will make identification possible. You can obtain registration forms at your District Station or your beat meeting. You can also register your bike online at [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org).

Second, any time you leave your bike unattended, make sure it is locked to a secure structure. Use a quality lock that cannot be easily broken. Spending a few more dollars on a high quality lock can save you much more money later on.

**SECURE YOUR BELONGINGS:** When you are out playing softball, shooting hoops or otherwise enjoying the city's parks, you won't want to be carrying your valuables. If you can't leave them at home, lock your purse, wallet and other belongings in the trunk of your car or a friend's car. Never lock your valuables in your car where they can be seen. Keep whatever you have to bring with you on your person -- either in a fanny pack, front pocket or money belt.

**SECURE YOUR HOUSE OR APARTMENT:** Ideally, when you are not at home you should make sure that your windows and doors are locked securely. However, if you don't have air conditioning there are things you can do to keep air moving through your home without also inviting intruders. For example, locks that allow your windows

to open only an inch or so can be easily and cheaply installed. When you are at home with your doors open, always keep your screen doors locked. Don't assume that being close to your home will keep someone from coming in your front door. Never leave your house or apartment unlocked even if you are just around the corner.

**SECURE EACH OTHER:** As important as making sure our homes and belongings are safe is making sure our neighbors are safe. Attending beat meetings, forming block clubs, establishing telephone trees, and creating neighborhood watches are just a few ways you can help ensure the safety of your neighbors.

Also, keep in mind that when the temperature climbs, you should take some time to check on your neighbors, especially senior citizens, and make sure they have everything they need. If you do find a neighbor in distress, call 911. If you need information on the nearest City cooling center or other heat-related services, call 311.

By working with your neighbors, the police and other City departments to identify crime and disorder problems, you can help make your neighborhood safer. Attend your next beat meeting and find out how you can get involved. More information about CAPS is also available on the City's home page at [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org) or by calling 311.

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