

# Rural Crime Prevention

## Reporting Crime and Suspicious Activities

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## Don't Let Your Guard Down

Rural communities have their own unique crime prevention challenges i.e. theft of crops, copper wire, fuel, timber, livestock, fertilizers and farm equipment. Rural community members may encounter dumps of chemicals from clandestine labs (Meth labs) or remains of poached animals. Be a proactive neighbour: keep an eye on your neighbour's homes or cottages, livestock and equipment. If you see a suspicious vehicle or suspicious activity, record the license plate number and activity occurring; inform your neighbours and local law enforcement about anything making you uneasy.

Join an Alberta Rural Crimewatch Program — [www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca](http://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca)



### Three Steps to Follow

Observe: Know what to watch for

Report: Call Police

Record: Write down the information

## Cottages

- Cottages should always have the appearance of being occupied – this can be accomplished by using motion activated lights both indoors and outdoors.
- Consider installing a timer on the television or leaving the radio on to help deter criminals.
- Store and secure recreational equipment out of sight i.e. quads and/or trikes, boats, ski-doo's, sea-doo's.
- Safeguard valuable property by engraving or marking it with your driver's license number. Take photos, save them on a CD or memory stick and store off site.

## Outside

- Keep your house, driveway, barns and other buildings well-lit.
- Consider installing motion activated lights on your property.
- Prune back shrubbery which may hide doors, windows or lights.
- Keep your fences in good repair.
- Secure all access roads with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented into the ground; make them visible with bright flags or streamers, reflective material or tape.
- Post "No Trespassing" or "No Hunting" signs to demonstrate you are on the alert.