



## Newsletter Summer 2007



### Mother Nature and Criminals Don't Take Vacations

Tips to keep your home safe while travelling

With the vacation planned, the bags packed, and the family geared up, don't overlook one essential preparation – making sure your home is not an easy target for Mother Nature or criminals.



“While on vacation, you do not want to broadcast your absence to the neighborhood. If homeowners take the necessary precautions before they leave, they'll have more fun and worry less about something bad happening while they're traveling”.

While there is no foolproof method of ensuring 100 % protection, the following may help you protect your home from a lightning strike or break-in:

- Unplug televisions, computers, CD Players and other appliances that are susceptible to lightning and power surges.
  - Set indoor lights on a timer – fluctuate the times lights are on and off each day.
  - Install motion detector / security lighting outside
- Make sure smoke detectors are working



In addition to electrical safeguards, here are some basic home safety tips homeowners can take before hitting the road:

- Turn telephone ringer down low and never disclose information about your vacation on the answering machine or use call forwarding.
  - Call the post office and stop the mail until you return or ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up
  - Don't leave a house key hidden outside your house
- Give your itinerary and contact information to a neighbor in case of an emergency

