



Traveling this Summer?

If you plan to leave on a no doubt well-deserved summer vacation, take the time to review the security of your home:

- Install a wireless doorbell camera
- Avoid advertising plans to be away on social media.
- Arrange to stop newspaper delivery and have someone collect mail and flyers from your mailbox.
- Put timers on interior lights.
- Ensure all of your windows are locked.
- Put exterior lights on photo-electric switches to activate them at dusk.
- Load the car or trailer in the garage rather than in the driveway.
- Park a spare car, if you have one, in the driveway or ask a trusted neighbor to use your driveway.
- Consider arranging for a house-sitter for prolonged absences.
- Connect radio or television to a timer.
- Turn down the ringer on your telephone or adjust the answering machine to pick up after three rings.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed.



- Leave a key with someone you trust.
- Let trusted neighbors know you are going to be away, for how long and where you can be contacted.
- Do not hide keys outside – burglars know all the “good” places.
- Lock up ladders, tools and recreational equipment.
- Do not keep large amounts of money or jewelry in your home.
- Mark valuable items for identification.
- Keep valuables in a safety deposit box at your bank.
- Give a trusted neighbor your alarm code. You can change the code when you return.
- Visit skokiepolice.org, submit a Residential Security Check form, and an officer will check your residence while you are away.
- Take some time to think about security precautions before you go away. Common sense prevention is your best deterrent against crime.

The Neighborhood Watch program reminds you:

A community where residents are willing to look out for one another's interests is a community where crimes are least likely to occur.

Did you know? - Quick Facts

- The Skokie Village Code prohibits the parking of Commercial Vehicles on Village streets per Skokie Municipal Code: 106-105.
- Commercial Vehicles include vehicles with more than single rear wheels, vehicles with advertisements or business identification, vehicles with attached auxiliary equipment such as ladder racks, snowplows or construction equipment.
- Trailers of any size are also prohibited from being parked on the street, whether attached to a vehicle or not.
- Certain vehicles are exempt from these regulations due to their official use.
- Commercial vehicles are only allowed to park in off-street private lots within the designated industrial districts per Skokie Municipal Code: 106-104.
- Vehicles are prohibited from being parked upon any roadway for the purposes of displaying those vehicles for sale, repairing that vehicle, or for awaiting repair at an auto repair business.



Don't Fall Victim to Auto Theft

- Motorists everywhere appear to forget one of the earliest lessons of car ownership: Do not leave your keys in the car.
- The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) recently reported that the number of vehicles that were stolen because drivers left keys or fobs in their vehicles increased 56% over a three-year period, and 88% in the past five years. NICB said that 229,339 vehicles were stolen in that manner from 2015 through 2018 for an average of 209 thefts per day.
- “The number of thefts with keys or fobs left inside may be substantially higher since many drivers do not admit to making the mistake, and it is not reported in the police report or insurance claim,” the NICB report says. While the Skokie Police Department does not specifically track reports of auto thefts with keys left in the vehicle, reports have noted that spare fobs and keys were often located in an unlocked vehicle owned by the same family that was targeted for an auto burglary. When the spare keys or fob for the other car were located in the burglarized vehicle, the other car was then stolen, too, and used for further criminal acts.

- The increase in vehicle thefts with keys left inside contrasts with a declining overall vehicle theft rate. The NICB said national total vehicle thefts have declined steeply since 2003, but there was an up-tick in 2016 when 765,484 vehicles were reported stolen—an increase of 57,726 from 2015. According to the report, in that same year, 69,351 vehicles were stolen with keys or fobs left inside.

While 2018 motor vehicle thefts in Skokie were up 13% over 2017 to a total of 63, vehicle theft remains 13% lower than the 10-year average and 335 lower than the 20-year average. Last year's rise in motor vehicle theft could be attributed to what the NICB calls “complacency thefts.” It is important to eliminate opportunities for crime where you can. Residents can do that by:

1. Securing belongings out of the car. This includes removing valuable items from the trunk, glove box, and center console.
2. Remove extra keys for homes and vehicles.
3. Remove valuable paperwork and secure it in a residence.



- Do not use your vehicle as a gun safe. Period. Firearms do not belong unattended in a vehicle, no matter the length of time.
- Park in a well-lit area. If you park in a driveway, turn on your exterior yard lights. If parking on the street, try to park under a street light. If you are parking in a parking lot, ensure that it is well-lit. If the parking lot is not well-lit, speak with building management about repairing or installing additional lighting.
- Install a video doorbell camera that looks out into your parking area. Doorbell cameras are extremely inexpensive and can be activated in a matter of minutes.
- Talk to your teenage children or family members who may be of driving age to remove their items from vehicles. Backpacks are easy targets in a vehicle, as they often contain a computer or tablet.
- Practice the #9PM Routine: set an alarm on your phone or calendar that alerts you every night at 9 p.m. to make sure that you have removed all valuables from your vehicle, removed your keys from the ignition, removed any other spare keys, and locked the vehicle doors. It is a good idea to also remove your garage door opener, especially if there is a home entry door inside the garage.

See or hear something? Report 24/7: 24-Hr. Crime Tip Hot-line: 847/933-TIPS - Text-A-Tip: Text “Skokie” and your tip to 847411

Email: crime.prevention@skokie.org

Active Shooter/Armed Assailant Response: Do YOU Know What to Do?

What Is an Active Shooter?

An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Incidents are over within minutes, often before law enforcement arrives.

How to Respond:

- **RUN.** If you can get out, do so.
 - Have an escape route and plan in mind.
 - Evacuate whether others follow or not.
 - Leave your belongings behind.
 - Follow the instructions of any police officers.

- **HIDE.** If you can not get out, get behind something that offers protection.
 - Lock and barricade doors.
 - Turn off your cell phone ringer.
 - Remain quiet. Text Skokie's 9-1-1 center by downloading the Skokie Police Text-A-Tip application to your cell phone. Text "Skokie" and your tip to 847411.

- **FIGHT!** If it's life or death it's time to act.
 - Act as aggressively as possible.
 - Improvise weapons.
 - Commit to your actions.

When the Skokie Police Arrive:

- Officers will enter the area where the shooter is believed to be.
- Officers WILL NOT wait outside to assemble into teams.
- Officers MAY NOT BE in uniform. Officers may also be on scene from neighboring police departments.
- Officers WILL NOT immediately stop to help the hurt or injured until the offender is stopped. Rescue teams will follow.
- Remain calm and follow all instructions.
- Keep hands visible. Do not hold onto any items.

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Active Shooter Response, continued...

Providing Information:

- Location of an active shooter or armed assailant
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter or shooters
- Number and type of weapons
- Number of potential victims if known

Ways to Prepare For and Prevent an Active Shooter Situation:

Be aware of your surroundings. Always look for your evacuation route when at work or out of the home. We call this Situational Awareness.

Recognize the sound of gunshots and react immediately. If you have never heard either, here is a short video that may help Gunshots and Fireworks: Side by Side (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I9JhgPepHY&feature=youtu.be>).

Adopt a survival mindset. Do what is necessary in times of crisis to ensure your survival.

Foster a respectful workplace. Be aware of any indications of workplace violence and take remedial actions accordingly.

Save These Dates!

- Visit the Skokie Police Department at various parks and block parties throughout the summer as part of our Many Cultures One Community program. Officers will be out speaking with members of the community and promoting involvement in the various programs the Skokie Police Department offers, such as Neighborhood Watch, the Citizens Police Academy, and the youth Police Explorer program.
- Skokie's Wednesdays on the Green continues each Wednesday evening through August 21 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the Village Green, 5155 Oakton Street. Wednesdays on the Green features free musical entertainment for everyone, and most evenings, you can stop by the Police Department table and chat with Police Chief Anthony Scarpelli and other representatives of the Skokie Police Department.
- National Night out takes place Tuesday, August 6, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Oakton Park. Games, music, food and more!
- Downtown Skokie's Backlot Bash weekend, August 23 through 25, 2019. Live music, carnival rides, 5k, classic car show and more!
- The 2019 Citizens Police Academy starts on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. The 12-week academy will be held at the Skokie Police Department on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The academy is free and open to adults age 18 and older who live or work in Skokie. Space is limited and advance registration is required. The course covers a wide variety of topics including the K9 Unit, Criminal and Civil Law, Tactical Intervention Unit, Evidence, 9-1-1 Telecommunications, Use of Force, investigations and much more. For more information or to enroll in the academy, contact Officer Eric Swaback at 847/982-5919 or eric.swaback@skokie.org.



neighborhood WATCH

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@skokiepolice



7300 Niles Center Road • Skokie IL 60077
 Main/Non-emergency: 847/982-5900
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 Direct: 847/982-5922 • Richard.Wilken@skokie.org
 24-Hr. Crime Tip Hot-line: 847/933-TIPS
 Text-A-Tip: Text "Skokie" and your tip to 847411
 Email: crime.prevention@skokie.org

Emergency: 9-1-1

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