BUILDING SECURITY

How well would your district be able to function if critical equipment was stolen? In late 2015 and early 2016 SDAO member fire districts had over $120,000 in emergency equipment stolen from unmanned stations. As participants in the member-owned pool, all districts are encouraged to ensure their facilities are secure to discourage theft. Here are some quick tips to help you assess your facilities.

1. Evaluate your property to ensure it is safe and secure. Trust your gut reaction. Facilities and areas that appear vulnerable become targets.

2. "Own" the space. If the facility is easily accessible and visible, the property and contents are well marked and readily identifiable, and the space is clearly defined it will send the message that the area is intended for a specific purpose and it is not a place for individuals to hang out.

3. Keep the area well lit. Motion sensor lights can be effective in reducing vandalism and preventing crime.

4. Maintain landscaping to discourage hiding places. Shrubs should be cut to lower than 2 feet tall or trimmed up so you can see through the lower 4 feet. This is known as the 2x4 rule of thumb. Additional information can be found here.

5. Eliminate hiding places provided by fencing. It is also important to ensure your fencing does not provide a way to access the roof of your facility.

6. Windows should be locked but not blocked. Windows can be used by people passing by or living nearby to see inside your buildings. Get to know your neighbors and talk to them about how to contact you when they see activity at these locations.

7. Join efforts with your local law enforcement. Give them access codes to buildings that have bathroom facilities. Having a patrol car show up unannounced to make a pit stop or write reports is a good deterrent.

8. Add video surveillance to buildings. Security systems and video surveillance can be crucial in catching and prosecuting thieves.

To learn more, download the CPTED Security Handbook at:
http://rockridgencpc.com/documents/fliers/CPTED%20Security%20Handbook-rev%20simlin.pdf

SDAO
SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

SDIS
SPECIAL DISTRICTS
INSURANCE SERVICES