

FALL CREEK PLACE AREA SAFETY TIPS

- 1) **Petty theft** is our number one problem. Anything that is not secured in some fashion is subject to being taken.
 - a. Do not leave your garage door open for any period of time if you are not in the garage or the alley. Buy heavy locking cables to put on items stored in the garage.
 - b. Front patio furniture gets stolen. If you do not want to lose it, cable tie it to railings or to eye bolts anchored in the house.
 - c. Packages delivered to your house are subject to theft, particularly if you are not there to receive them as soon as they arrive. Have packages shipped to work or an alternate safe delivery point to assure that you will get the item.
 - d. Inventory valuables inside the house and record serial numbers from electronic equipment. Take pictures of your items as an extra way to identify them. Keep a printed copy of this in your house.
 - e. Be sure to turn on lights in the alley, in your backyard, and your front porch every night. If you have a lamp post in the yard, be sure it is operating and lighting at night.
- 2) **Car smash-ins and theft.**
 - a. Do not leave valuables in your car when parked on the street or in the alley. If you do choose to park your car outside overnight, remove your garage door opener. Cars have been broken into, followed by the opening of the owners' garages to take more items.
 - b. Do not leave your car running to warm it up. Many cars that are stolen have their keys in them when they are stolen.
- 3) **Safety** is obviously a concern, and this is a brief list of suggestions.
 - a. If you feel something inappropriate is happening, do not hesitate to call 911.
 - b. If you see someone committing a crime, observe as much detail about the person and what they are wearing as you can. This can be critical information to relay to the police.
 - i. When you call 911, they will ask you to identify yourself and your address. You do not have to tell them who you are.
 - c. Be sure your house number is also on your garage so that officers can locate specific homes from the alley as well as the street.
 - d. If you hear gunshots, call the police. Be prepared to tell them how many shots you heard. Describe what direction you heard them come from if you can. When you call, you may be asked if you heard anybody arguing prior to the gunshots, and whether you heard screams after the shots.
 - e. Do not open the door for any stranger. It is a good idea to speak through the door so that the person does know you are home. If they claim to be distressed and in need of help, offer to call 911 to come assist them.
 - f. Know your neighbors. Be familiar with the vehicles they drive. This creates a baseline for you to know what cars are there regularly and which ones may not belong there.
 - g. Always turn on your security system when you leave your house, and at night.
 - h. Add cameras and signs that call out the cameras on your garage and at your front door.

- 4) **Keeping the neighborhood tidy.** Keeping things in the neighborhood orderly portrays that its residents care about it, and that its residents are active and aware of their surroundings.
 - a. Report abandoned vehicles. If a car has not moved for a week and/or appears unable to move without a tow truck, it should not remain on the street. (This includes cars sitting there with flat tires.) Use the RequestIndy app to report the vehicle, or contact the MAC at 317-327-4622
 - b. Buildings that have had graffiti sprayed on them. Again, contact via RequestIndy or the MAC phone number. Building owners are responsible to remove graffiti. KIB can also help with paint supplies if the building is abandoned and neighbors want to take charge of painting over the graffiti.
- 5) **Neighborhood online discussion forums:** A key forum for being in touch with the neighborhood is NextDoor.com. It is a website and a downloadable app for your phone. (Our specific site where you can start subscription from as well, is fallcreekplace.nextdoor.com.)
 - a. Many issues in the neighborhood, including crime, are posted by all of us on the site. (Report issues to the police prior to making the post.)
 - b. The Indianapolis Mayor's office posts through the site to help us all stay in the know on things the city is doing to support us. The IMPD east district also follows postings on the forum. If you create a Crime and Safety message, NextDoor offers to send an emailed copy of the report to IMPD East.
 - c. You can check with neighbors to see if there are other electronic forums for very specific neighborhoods. Residents on Broadway St have a private group on Facebook to discuss things on the block, for example.
- 6) If you are aware of chronic problems like prostitutes or you think there is drug dealing going on, it is best to report that to 317-262-TIPS. This is an outside service the city uses to collect information about chronic problems. It is always presumed that you are reporting to this number anonymously, so do not attempt to identify yourself if you call this number.

A non-safety tip is to load an app on your phone called RequestIndy. It is a communication tool to report issues to the Mayor's Action Center, like trash dumping in the alleys, potholes, stray animals, high grass and weeds on lots, problems in parks, etc. You also can report issues by phone to the MAC. Their phone number is 317-327-4622.