

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Your vacation should be a pleasant experience for you and your family. Returning to a home that has been burglarized is a very unpleasant homecoming. Your time away can be more enjoyable and carefree when you know your home is being watched.

Seniors on Patrol, trained volunteers from the Eugene Police Department, will perform a thorough inspection of your property while you



are away on vacation. Vacation checks entail a visual check of your home and outbuildings and ensuring that vehicles, gates, lighting and the general security of the home is intact and in

accordance with the request. Whenever a vacation check reveals something suspicious, volunteers are trained to back out of the immediate area and request a patrol officer be dispatched to investigate further. Vacation checks will be performed, as staffing allows, with the goal of checking the home 2 to 3 times each week that you are gone or 1 time a week for vacations longer than 30 days. Upon your return, you will receive a letter detailing the dates/times that your home was checked along with any notations made by the volunteers.

Senior Patrol Volunteers work in pairs, drive specially marked police vehicles and wear uniforms that clearly identify them as police volunteers. They will park a discreet distance from your home whenever possible and will walk in to the property. Vacation checks are a free service which could not be offered by the Eugene Police Department without assistance from this volunteer team.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- For City of Eugene residents only
- For vacations of a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 90 days (or 3 months)
- For residential properties only. Business locations, vacant properties, homes for sale and homes with a house sitter or other guest(s) staying in the home are not eligible for vacation checks
- **Applications must be submitted at least one week before your departure.** If you submit your application online, you will receive a confirmation that the application has been received and will be processed. Telephone requests for vacation checks cannot be accepted.
- To apply online go to Eugenepolice.com and follow the path to Prevention and Safety, then Protect your Home.
- For those who need a paper applications please call Debbie Janecek at 541.682.2746 to have one mailed to you or visit us at the following police locations:

Police Headquarters
300 Country Club Rd
Open 24 hours a day

West University Station
791 East 13th Ave.
Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It is important to note that a home check pursuant to this program does not guarantee the safety or security of the property. Nor does it mean the Eugene Police Department is in any way responsible for the property in your absence.

It just authorizes the Seniors on Patrol and the Eugene Police to visually and/or physically inspect your premises during their patrols.

For additional questions about this program contact Program Manager Debbie Janecek at 541.682.2746



Home Vacation Check Program



PROTECT.SERVE.CARE.

Eugene Police Department

Crime Prevention Unit
300 Country Club Road
Eugene, OR 97401
541.682.5137
www.eugenepolice.com



KEEP YOUR HOME SNUG, SAFE & SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

In the months before your departure:

- 🏠 Repair broken doors and windows.
- 🏠 Install good-quality locking devices on all exterior doors and windows, if you have not already done so. The Crime Prevention Team can help by providing a free Home Safety Inspection and making suggestions for any improved security measures that may be needed. Call (541) 682-5137.
- 🏠 Complete a vacation check application.

Arrange for a trusted person to:

- 🏠 Pick up your mail.
- 🏠 Mow and water your lawn.
- 🏠 Pick up newspapers and circulars from your driveway, entry area, and yard.
- 🏠 Feed your pets.
- 🏠 Turn lights on and off if they are not on a timer or photoelectric sensor.
- 🏠 If you have a burglar alarm, your contact person should know how to set and disable the alarm as needed. A loud false alarm during your absence will not be well-received by your neighbors!

A day or two prior to departure:

- 🏠 Mow the lawn and trim shrubbery. Shrubs and hedges should be trimmed to 3-foot height or trimmed up from the bottom to expose 18 inches. Trees should be pruned to 6 feet above the ground.
- 🏠 Store all ladders, tools, lawn equipment, etc. in a locked storage shed or garage.
- 🏠 Take valuables to your safe deposit box.



On the day you leave home:

- 🏠 Turn down the volume of your telephone ringer and answering machine so that they cannot be heard from outside the house.
- 🏠 Make sure gas appliances are turned off.
- 🏠 Unplug small appliances such as fans, toasters, and electric coffee pots.
- 🏠 Set your electric timers to turn on some lights during the evening hours.
- 🏠 If you leave a car in your driveway, park it up against the garage door. Make sure your vehicle is locked with nothing inside.
- 🏠 Bolt the garage door on the inside. Unplug electric garage-door opener.
- 🏠 Make sure all windows are locked.
- 🏠 Leave a key and the phone number where you can be reached with your emergency contact person. The contact person should hold on to the key in your absence. The key should not be left in or near your own home where a burglar might find it, even in a hidden location.
- 🏠 Turn water heater down to low/vacation setting. Turn off water to automatic washer to avoid possible water damage from a split hose.
- 🏠 Just before you leave, walk around the house and make sure everything is secure. Remove any large items that could be used for access into a second-story window.
- 🏠 Enjoy your trip!

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