

Operation Identification - Making Tough for Crime

The Raleigh Police Department wants to make it tougher for criminals to sell stolen items. To do that, the police department has adopted a nationwide program - Operation Identification – to help you mark and identify your property.

What is Operation Identification?

Operation Identification is a crime prevention program designed to educate you about the advantages of marking your personal property with an identifying number, such as your driver's license number (do not use your Social Security Number). The program has dramatically reduced the profit in stolen goods. Marked items are harder to dispose of and are more easily traced, allowing the police to return the property if it is recovered.

How Should Valuables Be Marked?

An engraving tool is the easiest way to make your items; however, some valuables (jewelry, antiques, furs, and silverware) cannot be engraved without reducing their value. Instead, take color photos or videotape them. An indelible marking pen is another option for some items. The identification number should be readily visible without marring the appearance of the item. Marking the item a second time in a hidden place is also recommended.

What Kinds of Items Should Be Marked?

Bicycles	Hand/power Tools
Radios	Lawnmowers and other gardening equipment
Televisions	Musical Instruments
VCRs/DVD players	Sports Equipment
Photographic equipment/video cameras	Firearms
Computers	CD Players
Stereo Equipment	Anything of value that can be carried away

Many of these items have serial numbers on them as well. Make a written inventory of your valuables that includes these serial numbers, the brand names of the items, purchase price, your identification number, and the location of the identification number on the item. Keep this list, along with photos of the items, in a safe place in case a burglary occurs. This list will also be valuable for insurance purposes in case of fire or other loss. An extra copy of this list should be kept in a separate location, such as in a safe deposit box or in the possession of a trusted friend or relative.

Other Help For You

Operations Identification is but one important step in combating burglary and theft. The Raleigh Police Department also offers free home security surveys to evaluate the security of your home and make suggestions for improvements. To make an appointment for a free home security survey, call the District 21 Crime Prevention Unit at 420-2300.

For more information about this program or other crime prevention programs, contact:

Raleigh Police Department
Crime Prevention / Community Relations
8016 Glenwood Avenue
(919) 420-2300

