Crime Prevention/Security tips for residents of apartment building

- When you move into a new building, request that the lock/cylinder be changed so previous tenants cannot enter.
- Use only a first initial and last name on your mailbox and/or buzzer.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or apartment manager for delivery of packages.
- If you do not have an outgoing mailbox, talk to your landlord to see if one can be installed. Don’t leave your mail in an unsecured public area.
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors.
- Participate in Apartment Watch, National Night Out, and other events - if available, if not, ask about planning something.
- Never let a stranger follow you through your building’s security door. If you feel intimidated by someone, use an alternative entrance.
- Never buzz someone in until you have identified them.
- If a stranger tells you they are going to visit one of your neighbors, tell them they have to wait until that neighbor lets them in.
- Never prop open security doors.
- If someone you don’t know is standing in the lobby fumbling for keys, don’t assume they live there. They may be trying to trick you into letting them in.
- Never give out copies of your building key, nor let someone use it. It only takes a few seconds to make a copy of a key.
- Keep all doors to your unit locked at all times, even when you go to the laundry room. Be sure to keep the terrace and balcony doors locked.
- Make sure all exterior windows have security devices (Charlie bar, locks) if the sills are within 24 feet of ground level or are accessible by means of balconies, fire escapes, porches, etc.
- Do not pay rent or other housing charges in cash. Request proof of payment for your records.
- Never open your door until you know who is there. Use a peephole/eye viewer to see who is there.
- Don’t rely on a chain latch for security, use your deadbolt.
- If you are suspicious of another passenger entering the elevator, wait for the next one.
- Report bad or burnt out lighting to management.
- Remain alert and pay attention to suspicious people at the in common areas including laundry room, fitness area, business office, entrance, and in parking/garage areas.
- Call 911 when you see illegal or suspicious activity, and then report it to your landlord or property manager.

VEHICLES & GARAGES

1. Park in a secure garage when available.
2. Keep the garage and any storage area secure and locked.
3. Watch for vehicles or people attempting to gain entry to an underground garage when you open the door.
4. Remove valuables from your vehicle when it is left unattended.
5. Remove garage door openers from the vehicle, especially when parked in the surface lot.
6. Report any lighting that is not working properly or any damage to management.
7. Call 911 when you see illegal or suspicious activity, and then report it to your landlord or property manager.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information at 763-531-5140 or nkorth@newhopemn.gov or visit http://www.newhopemn.gov to view information on the New Hope Police Department and Crime Prevention.