

Media Release

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Killam / Forestburg RCMP advises homeowners to secure your property while away over the holidays

Killam / Forestburg, Alta - December is a time of year filled with joy, celebration, and often travel. Whether you're escaping the cold for a sunny destination or heading home to spend the holidays with loved ones, leaving your property unoccupied can make it vulnerable to theft or damage.

The Killam / Forestburg RCMP want everyone to enjoy their holidays with peace of mind, so here are some tips to help ensure your home and belongings remain secure while you're away:

- Use timers on lights, televisions, or radios to make it appear that someone is home.
- Arrange for a neighbor or friend to pick up your mail and newspapers. A pile of mail is a clear sign that no one is around.
- If it snows while you're away, ask someone to clear your driveway and walkway to avoid the appearance of an unoccupied home.
- Ensure all doors and windows are securely locked, including those on upper floors and in the garage.
- Consider upgrading to smart locks that allow you to monitor and control your home's entry points remotely.
- Avoid posting your travel plans or real-time updates about your vacation on social media. Wait until you return to share photos and stories.
- Turn off location services on your devices to prevent others from knowing you're away.
- Install a security system with cameras that you can monitor remotely. Many modern systems offer motion detection and instant notifications to your phone.
- Use motion-activated outdoor lighting to deter intruders.
- Ask a friend, family member, or neighbor to keep an eye on your property. Provide them with a key and your contact information in case of an emergency.
- If you'll be away for an extended period, consider hiring a house sitter to maintain a consistent presence at your home.
- Shut off your water supply or leave a tap dripping to prevent frozen pipes.
- Disconnect non-essential electronics to avoid fire risks or damage from power surges.

For more home safety tips, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

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