

Man robbed and assaulted at his canal house

A 78 year-old St Francis Bay man was assaulted last month by a man who robbed him of his laptop at Sunday lunchtime.

The garage door of the man's house in Mahe Beat was open and the suspect, went into the house and took a laptop, then fled on his bicycle.

The homeowner gave chase after the suspect and found him at vacant premises nearby. A struggle ensued,

the laptop was dropped and elderly man was allegedly assaulted by the robber. The thief then took the man's wallet and ran away. Only cash was taken out of wallet as the suspect dropped it along the way. A case of robbery and theft was reported to the local SAPS police station and investigations are under way. An arrest is imminent.

Visitors and residents warned to beef-up security at homes

Increase in robberies from occupied and unoccupied houses - Visitors and residents warned to beef up security

There has been a sharp increase in robberies over the last month in St Francis Bay, mostly from occupied houses.

Not all robberies are reported by official police media spokesperson to the press. Only the most serious, such as those involving serious injury and murder, are reported.

This, unfortunately, provides a false impression of the status quo to the public, security companies say. Since few crimes are reported as occurring, visitors and resident have the false impression that St Francis is almost a crime-free area and it is safe to leave

homes unlocked when at home with doors wide open, or it is safe to not put the alarm on and lock up properly when they go out.

Unfortunately with so many unemployed living in the informal settlements, crime is on the increase. Cellphones, TVs, laptops and jewellery are still the most popular items for those wanting to commit theft, it has been reported.

Visitors and residents are warned to be extremely security conscious over the forthcoming holiday periods. Alongside, on this page, there is a good security guideline and several tips from the cops on how to protect one's home from intrusions and prevent valuable items being stolen

CRIME SCENE HIGHLIGHTS

SAPS Crme Safety Tips



The South African Police Service (SAPS) has beefed up their pro-active measures by introducing the Safer Season Campaign.

Some safety tips to follow are:

- Residential places
 - Know all emergency numbers
 - Keep your cellphone in the bedroom
 - Never leave keys in a gate or lock
 - Keep your panic button nearby
 - The locks on outside doors should be changed when you move into a new home or after keys have been lost or stolen.
 - Make provision for good outside lighting. Remember outside lights that are on during the day draws the attention of thieves.
 - Mail left in the gate is also a sign that nobody is at home. Get a friend or neighbour to keep a regular eye on your property and to remove mail and newspapers.
 - Use lighting to your advantage: Lights that are on inside while it is dark outside put you at a disadvantage
 - Lights that are on outside while it is dark inside will allow you to observe what is going on without being seen yourselves.
 - Curtains should be closed after dark to prevent suspects from observing the activities inside your home.
 - Never leave workers or contractor unattended in your home
 - Do not let salesmen standing around
 - Conduct thorough background checks before employing anyone, permanent or casual workers.
 - Request identity documents and make a copy for safekeeping. Check references and do security clearances at the police.
 - Be careful what is discussed in front of staff.
 - Don't leave your garage, front door or back door open or partially open – it serves

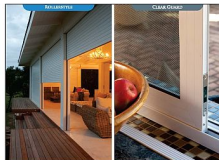
as an invitation to burglars.

- Inform police of any suspicious characters who you consider to pose a threat.
- House keys should never be left lying around or kept dangling on the outside of doors. They should be kept in a safe place and out of sight.
- Owners to park their vehicles in the garages (if they have one). Ensure all doors are locked. Don't leave any valuables in cars. Ensure a vehicle's alarm is activated.
- Take note and be observant of any bushy or vacant area near your house as most of the time, criminals will hide stolen items in the bush and return later to fetch it
- Never leave valuable items (laptops, cell phones) lying around before retiring for the night.
- Do not ignore the irritating bark of the dogs. Housebreakers will rarely enter through the front door of a house so dogs will alert you to exactly where they are. Phone police immediately if there is any suspicious or unusual activity.
- Stolen goods:
 - Reject any goods you suspect could have been stolen and report the matter to the police on Crime Stop 08600 10111.
- ATATMS:
 - Avoid making huge cash withdrawals from an ATM or carrying a large amount of money as this draws criminals' attention to you.
 - Alternate the days and times on which you deposit cash
 - Never make your bank visits public, even to people close to you
 - Do not openly display the money you are depositing while you are standing in the bank queue

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