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a) Apartment Dwellers

Be cautious about entering an apartment building elevator with suspicious individuals. Remain in the lobby for a few minutes and take another elevator.

Use the elevator whenever possible in a building. Stand next to the control panel, and if threatened, push the alarm.

Avoid poorly-lit stairwells which are seldom used. If you must use the stairs, do so in the company of a companion or someone you trust.

Never leave the door of your apartment open.

Double-check the identity of any visitor. Do not assume that the individual who rang from the lobby is the same person who later knocks at your door.

Report suspicious strangers loitering in hallways or elevators to your superintendent or the appropriate authorities.

Report burned-out lights in hallways or elevators to the building superintendent so that they can be replaced.

Be cautious about going into a basement garage when you are alone. Always have your car keys ready to open your car door.

b) Home Occupants

Criminals will learn when a residence is unoccupied, if there is a guard on the grounds, a watchdog, a wall or fence to be penetrated, any external lighting that could reveal their movements, an external alarm system and the types of doors and locks that would confront them.

If the deterrents provided make intrusion a difficult operation, there is a good likelihood that even the criminal with a successful background would look for a softer target.

A security alarm system must be tolerant of children, pets, and family members who return home late. The system must function while the family is at home going about its normal activities as well as when the house is unoccupied. It is essential that a rapid response time of no longer than 10 minutes be provided by security companies and/or the police.

• Doors, Windows and Other Openings

The most vulnerable points for the penetration of a residence are all perimeter entrances.

Ensure that the installed locks on the doors and grilles do not prevent a rapid evacuation from the premises. All window padlocks should be keyed-alike.