

through your neighbourhood. If this proves impossible, consider a roving private security patrol, perhaps shared by the neighbourhood.

Before you choose a residence, consider security. Apartments have the advantage of close neighbours, but many do not control access 24 hours a day. Separate dwellings should have adequate fencing or walls. Further safeguards include a burglar alarm system, an external horn or siren, exterior lighting or even an exterior floodlight system activated by intrusion-detection devices, deadbolt locks, metal door pins, and iron grilles for ground-floor windows. Secure upper storey windows accessible by trees, low roofs, or balconies and sliding glass or French doors. Every home should have fire and safety equipment. Light and radio timers, a few inexpensive toys or other objects on the front lawn, daily mail clearance, and newspaper cancellation will avoid advertising an empty residence.

Escape routes should be planned and discussed in advance. In high-risk areas, a safe haven is also desirable. An unobtrusive interior room with a sturdy door, a heavy lock and hinges, a radio or telephone and emergency supplies is best. The master-bedroom is often used as a safe-haven. If possible, it should have an emergency exit. A window in a safe-haven, for example, could have a grill or shutter hinged and locked from the inside with the key located permanently close by.