



# HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



### CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

**DATE:** January 4, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Garage Door Security

On Thursday, January 3, 2013 the Sheriff's Office learned of a recent incident at a home in the Sardis area where a resident was alerted after their automatic garage door inexplicably opened. As they investigated the issue they observed a suspicious vehicle slowly driving away, pausing in front of another residence, and then leaving the area rapidly. They also noted that several times in the preceding days that their garage door was partially opened. All the signs here indicate that someone may have been scouting the neighborhood with a device that is designed to capture and/or transmit various radio frequencies commonly used in remote garage door openers. The truck is described as a white in color, likely a 4-door cab, with a high-mount third brake light.

A few security measures are worth mentioning in regard to this incident:

- **Inspect and change your door opener's security code.** Most modern automatic garage door openers come from the factory pre-programmed with a basic radio frequency code. Think of it as your door's "combination." Depending on the manufacturer, that radio code may be set to a base number, such as 0-0-0-0. This code is usually easy to change to a combination of your choosing; just consult your owner's manual for instructions on how to change the code and synchronize your remotes to it.
- **Always lock your home's interior garage door.** Unfortunately, many people neglect this door as a potential security weakness because it's normally concealed by the outer garage door. Keep in mind that if someone is able to defeat your garage door and close it behind them, this gives them easy, concealed access to the interior of your home.
- **Utilize back-up door security.** Many garage doors have manual security features such as locking bars or disconnects for the automatic opener. Another simple option is to drill a hole in the side of the door's channel (the steel rail in which the wheels travel as the door goes up and down) so you can insert a padlock, a small section of pipe, a bolt, or some other object to act as a stop. This will effectively block the wheels and prevent the door from being raised- just be sure to drill the hole close enough to one of the wheels when the door is down so that there is almost no travel before the wheel hits the stop. Yes, some of these things can be an inconvenience, just be aware they are options. It's simply another step to add to the daily routine of securing your home. If nothing else, use these measures when you are out of town.
- **Be conscientious about your remote.** If someone breaks into your car, think about then things they can access. If it's parked at your house, they can now open the garage door. Do you leave mail, insurance and registration cards, or something else in the vehicle with your home address? If your car is broken into while you're away, they not only have your remote now, but they know where you live and the fact that you're not home. Food for thought.

As always, if you spot suspicious vehicles or persons, please contact dispatch at (770)536-8812 or 911.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Sergeant Stephen Wilbanks  
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770-533-7674  
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