HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

CRIME PREVENTION TIP

DATE: June 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Garage Door Security

Below is a link to a YouTube video clip spotlighting garage door security vulnerability.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMz1tXBVT1s

The topic often comes up when we're talking about alarm systems and whether or not it's a good idea to put a sensor on the overhead garage door. This is perfect example of why you should. Additionally, there are things you can do to overcome the hooking technique demonstrated in this clip. Here are just a few:

-   Remove the pull string and fix the release lever in place by running a heavy-duty zip-tie or wire around it.
-   Affix a small piece of channel steel from the lever to the track so that it can't be hooked.
-   Install a blocking shield made from metal or wood immediately above the center of the door so that if someone tries to insert the hook, it can't get past it.
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Note: If you remove the pull string, you should come up with an alternative plan that still allows the door to be manually released from the track. This is important in case of emergencies, such a person or vehicle being trapped under the door. Most doors have light-beam sensors designed to prevent such things, but if they fail or your home experiences a power outage, you may still have to deal with this or need to get a vehicle out of the garage. Put an "S" hook on the end of the string and hang it on a nail somewhere inside the garage in close proximity to the door so that it can be retrieved and put back into service in an expedient manner.

If you've never done so, take some time to search YouTube for video clips on burglary, lock picking, bump keys, etc. There is a lot of nonsense on the site that you sometimes have to wade through, but there is enough useful information to make it worth spending a little time on.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact

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