



For more information, contact:

MARYLAND CRIME WATCH

Maryland Crime Watch is a program of the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute Police Training Commission Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 6852 4th Street Sykesville, MD 21784 1-800-303-8802



We encourage photocopying or reprinting this brochure. Camera ready proofs may be borrowed from Maryland Crime Watch.

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OPERATION IDENTIFICATION



Maryland Crime Watch

What is Operation Identification?

It's a program that has proven to be effective in reducing burglary in communities where it has been properly implemented.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION has three parts: (1) marking all your easily stolen valuables so that they can be identified as yours; (2) using the list on the reverse side of this folder to record the description and serial numbers of all valuables you have marked; (3) displaying a sticker which tells burglars that you are participating in Operation Identification.

What makes OPERATION IDENTIFICATION so effective is that easily identified property is hard for a burglar to dispose of. It can be traced back to you. And, if the burglar is caught with it in his possession, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

I. MARKING YOUR VALUABLES

Use an electric engraver to mark your valuables for OPERATION IDENTIFICATION. Electric engravers are relatively inexpensive, and available at hardware, department and variety stores.

Mark your valuables by inscribing YOUR driver's license number followed by the letters MD. A typical marking should look like this:

A-000-000-000-000MD

If you have no driver's license number, the Motor Vehicle Administration will issue an identification number to you upon your completion of a special form they provide for this purpose.

Include your driver's license number (or identification number) even on property that includes a manufacturer's serial number to make your property more recoverable. By using the driver's license/identification number, you make it possible for law enforcement agencies to quickly trace the rightful owner of recovered property.

II. RECORDING DESCRIPTION OF VALUABLES

You should complete two copies of property list in this folder, keeping one copy in a safe place around your home or office, and another in a safe deposit box or other secure location. It's also a good idea to take color photographs of valuables that cannot be marked, and file the pictures with the copies of this folder.

In case of burglary, you'll be able to describe stolen property quickly, which will help police in their attempt to recover it.

III. DISPLAYING OP. I.D. STICKER

After marking your valuables and completing your property list, you should display an Operation Identification sticker on all your exterior doors. The sticker can be obtained from your police or sheriff's department.

Operation Identification stickers tell would-be burglars that goods stolen from your home or business will be hard to dispose of—and, if found in their possession, are evidence of their guilt.

It may send a burglar elsewhere.