

Contact: Capt. Mark McCaslin  
Phone: (620) 441-4444  
Fax: (620) 442-1410  
[mmccaslin@arkansascityks.gov](mailto:mmccaslin@arkansascityks.gov)

Police Department  
City of Arkansas City  
117 W. Central Ave.  
Arkansas City, KS 67005



# Press Release

## Arkansas City Police Department observes rise in burglaries

*Department offers tips for residents to avoid being victims of property crimes*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (December 30, 2015) — The Arkansas City Police Department is concerned by a recent increase in residential burglaries that have been reported in the last three months in Ark City.

The problem began to surface in mid- to late October, when citizens in the northwest part of the city reported that someone had entered their homes and garages to steal valuables such as electronics, tools, collectibles, coins, and firearms.

Several thousand dollars in losses were reported, spanning five cases.

The affected area initially was limited to the 1800 blocks of North Eighth through North 12th streets.

Officers attempted to increase patrols in that area. However, reports of burglaries have continued, and in an expanded area, as well.

Most recently, the department has seen criminal activity in the area of the 1100 block of West Birch Avenue, and from there, north on Ninth Street and south to the 600 block of North 11th Street.

Some isolated burglaries have been reported on Forewood Drive, at storage units located in the 900 block of North F Street and in the 700 block of North Third Street.

The Arkansas City Police Department suggests the following tips to reduce the chances that residents might be the victims of a home burglary:

- Routinely inspect the outside of your home and report any damage to your property or stolen items. A well-maintained property will show that the property is being occupied. Problems you encounter should be reported so that the police department can deploy more resources to affected areas.

**For immediate release**

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- Lock doors and windows to your home, garages, sheds, and automobiles. Locking things up makes it more difficult for thieves to gain entry to your property. If they make noise by kicking in a door or breaking glass, a witness is more likely to notice it and call the police.

- Do not leave items of value in plain sight, especially in your car. A high-dollar item in your car might be worth breaking the window to grab, so either remove the item or conceal it from view.

- Invest in outdoor lighting, including motion-detection lights. Burglars look for the easiest targets first. A well-lit home or garage is less likely to be entered than a poorly lit structure. Alarm systems and video surveillance also are great for deterring crime, but can be very costly.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Thieves might travel through your neighborhood for a number of reasons. Report anyone who looks out of the ordinary, especially people who are looking around your home or your neighbors' homes. Many times, burglars will knock on doors or ring doorbells to see if anyone is home. If someone is home, the person might ask for a person who does not live there or ask to use your telephone.

- Make a record of your belongings that includes serial numbers. Burglars target electronics, guns and jewelry. Being able to provide serial numbers for electronics and guns gives law enforcement another means to track down stolen property.

The Arkansas City Police Department is asking for the assistance of the public with addressing the recent string of residential burglaries.

Anyone with information about the recent crimes is asked to call the police department at (620) 441-4444 or Cowley County Crime Stoppers at (620) 442-7777.

Cowley County Crime Stoppers offers rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to an arrest.

Call 442-7777 in Ark City or (620) 221-7777 in Winfield, or visit [www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com) to make an anonymous report. An anonymous tip also can be submitted by texting ACTIPS to 847411.