



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter February 2021

HOW TO PREVENT CAR BURGLARIES

Citizens of Hitchcock!

Recently, there has been an increase in car burglaries throughout the city.

Throughout the year, and especially this time of year, we tend to see a rise in reported car burglaries. Thieves do not like to draw attention to themselves. So, they take the easiest and simplest route to stealing from you and your car, by simply walking from car to car checking to see if the doors are locked. In each instance, if the car doors are locked, they simply moved onto the next car. They do not break the windows as doing so would draw attention to them. When an unlocked automobile is discovered, the criminal searches through the car and steal what they can. They then proceeded to the next vehicle in search of more unlocked doors and more items to steal. In order to prevent these events, and to keep our community and your belongings safe, we've included some helpful tips.

LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS Experience has taught us that most car burglaries are done on unlocked cars. This is the simplest and most effective way to enhance the prevention process.

LOCK your trunk, hatchback, or tailgate to block access into the vehicle.

CLOSE all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.

Remove visible items from your vehicle:

If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Be aware that someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat, especially at a gym, shopping center, restaurant, etc. Take these with you or secure them in your trunk.

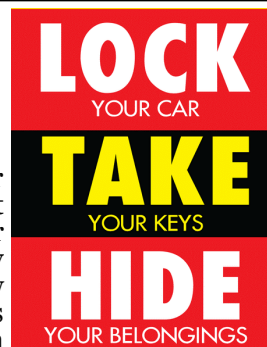
Who provides the burglar with the opportunity?

The victim provides the burglar with the opportunity by leaving their vehicle unlocked or their window open. Most property stolen is left in plain view where anyone walking by the car can see it.

When do auto burglaries occur?

Most auto burglaries occur at night while the vehicle is parked outside the victim's residence. Some burglars also target vehicles that are parked in parking lots while their owners are at work, in class, or shopping. They know it's going to be a long time before the owner returns to their car and the likelihood of being caught is low.

Remember, you have the opportunity to prevent yourself from becoming a victim of auto burglary and you can do so by removing your valuables from your vehicle and locking them in a safe place, and by **LOCKING** your vehicle. By following these helpful tips, you can help the Hitchcock Police Department protect you and your property.



COVID-19 VACCINES



How to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine waitlist in Galveston County

Sign up at utmbhealth.com/vaccine or call (877) 389-2318.

You will be asked a few short questions.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

2/15/2021 City Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

3/27/2021 City Wide Bulk Trash Clean Up 7:30am—3:30pm, City Barn, 8401 Schiro

KNOX BOX STANDARD ADOPTED

City of Hitchcock has adopted a Knox Box Standard to provide access to our emergency responders. The standard is for commercial and residential properties. Residential properties are not required to have Knox box, but can be helpful if you have a fire or burglary alarm to allow first responders access to your property. Commercial properties that have a fire, burglary alarm, and gates preventing access to the property are required to have a Knox Box.

What is a Knox Box?

A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted safe that holds building keys for fire departments, emergency medical services, and sometimes police to retrieve in emergency situations. Local fire departments can hold master keys to all boxes in their response area, so that they can quickly enter a building without having to force entry or find individual keys held in deposit at the station.



A Knox Box can also cut fire losses for building owners since firefighters can enter buildings without breaking doors or windows. It can also reduce the potential of a firefighter being injured forcing entry.

The Knox Box standard can be picked up at City Hall during normal business hours or on our website at https://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments/fire_marshall/index.php.

If you have any questions, please email fire@cityofhitchcock.org.

BACKFLOW TESTING

The Causes of Backflow

Backflow is when the direction of water or sewage is reversed in a home or city plumbing system. As a result, mild to severe contamination can occur through either siphonage or back-pressure. Siphonage is when the water direction reverses due to a reduction of water pressure. The most common cause of this is a water main break. Back-pressure occurs when the downstream pressure is higher than the supply chain pressure. One of the most common causes is equipment malfunctions, such as defective pump systems. Without proper testing or prevention, backflow can cause serious illness, disease and even death.

The Health Risks

Backflow testing can prevent contamination and protect the health and quality of life for your family. There are very specific health problems that can be avoided through backflow testing. The most common problems associated with backflow are sewer backups. When siphonage occurs, sewer backflow causes contaminated water to flow back into the plumbing system. Sewer water is loaded with a variety of harmful bacteria that can cause serious health problems. For example, common bacteria include E. Coli, salmonella and hepatitis. However, there are less common, yet very harmful bacteria that are found in sewer water. Several bacterial infections can be avoided through annual backflow testing.

Backflow Testing

Backflow testing will ensure that backflow preventers, the useful devices that prevent backflow, are properly working. These devices are placed in plumbing cross connections, where drinking water may possibly become contaminated. However, backflow can also occur outside the home. That is, irrigation or sprinkler systems must have backflow preventers in order to stop lawn fertilizer from contaminating drinking water. Keep in mind that only a plumbing professional, licensed by the local govt. or state, is allowed to perform backflow testing.

Regular backflow testing will keep both yourself and your family safe and healthy.

BUILDING INSPECTION AND PERMITS

Inspection of construction projects allows the City to ensure public safety through the effective enforcement of construction codes and standards for the construction, repair, demolition, occupancy and maintenance of buildings, structures and properties. Inspection activities ensure that every step of the construction project is completed in accordance with the adopted City Codes.

When is a building permit required?

Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure; erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems, installation of storage sheds, or construction/replacement of fences should contact the building official and submit any required applications.

Are there any projects exempt from permitting?

Yes, there are some projects that are exempt from permitting under the code as listed below. Please note that the following list is not all inclusive.

- Landscaping (not including irrigation).
- Swings and other playground equipment.
- Window awnings.
- Shade cloth structures.
- Minor repairs and maintenance.



Properties within the floodplain may require separate permits or approvals even if exempt from building permits.

However, regardless of whether a project requires a permit or not, all projects must meet the requirements of the adopted codes and ordinances of the City.

Always remember that every project is different.

2 It is always best to call the Building Inspections Department at 409-986-5591 **before starting any project.**

**CITY OF HITCHCOCK SPRING CLEAN-UP
MARCH 27TH, 2021, 7:30AM—3:30PM**

**This year, the disposal site for non-hazardous clean-up will be at
The City Barn.
8401 Schiro Hitchcock, Texas 77563**

Waste disposal at this event will be free of charge to residents as a service provided by the City of Hitchcock. The drop off site will be open **ONE DAY ONLY, MARCH 27th, 2021**. Disposals may be made at AmeriWaste Services temporary collection point of The City Barn – 8401 Schiro, Hitchcock, Texas 77563, between 7:30am to 3:30pm.

**For questions, please contact – AmeriWaste 281-331-8400
OR City of Hitchcock 409-986-5591**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO WEAR MASKS/PROTECTIVE FACE COVERINGS
AND GLOVES.**

What you need to know:

- Spring clean-up is restricted to Hitchcock residents only.
- This service is **free of charge** during the designated clean-up days and times for **City of Hitchcock Residents Only**.
- Waste delivered must be separated by type of material by the resident.
- Clean Up activities do not apply to commercial/rental property clean ups, large property clean ups, lot or acreage clean up, or lot and property land clearing.
- Commercial tree trimmers are not eligible for this service.

Requirements for Participation:

- A current City of Hitchcock utility bill showing that you are a City of Hitchcock Resident.
- Proper identification is required at time of disposal; Texas Driver's License or Identification Card.
- All materials must be sorted by the customer, NOT by the AmeriWaste Service / City of Hitchcock Employees.

Accepted Items:

- Batteries (car batteries only)
- Furniture (dressers, mattresses, box springs, sofa's, love seats, tables, and chairs)
- Stoves
- BBQ pits that DO NOT HAVE HOT ASH
- Tires (Passenger Tires Only Limit 4)



Limits:

- Maximum of 2 pick-up truck loads per household or maximum of 1 trailer load per household.
- Trailers are not to exceed 16' long x 4' high in size.
- No household waste.
- No Paint, Pool Chemicals, or Chemical Items
- No Propane Tanks, Microwaves, Washers, Dryers, or Air conditioners
- NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS; including automotive oils, cooking oils, filters, fluorescent light bulbs, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers.
- NO TIRES on rims or wheels, Commercial Tires, or Heavy Equipment Tires
- Mercury WILL NOT be accepted.
- Explosives and ammunition WILL NOT be accepted
- Computer monitors and box style television WILL NOT be accepted.

The City of Hitchcock and AmeriWaste Services are NOT responsible for damage to vehicles or injury to citizens during this event. The City of Hitchcock and AmeriWaste Services reserve the right to refuse service to anyone for not following the rules of the clean-up. Any items brought that are not listed/accepted or over the established limits are subject to a fee (at AmeriWaste Services discretion).



STREET/UTILITY PROJECTS

- Completed Neville Road Sanitary Sewer line improvements from FM2004 to Jay Road.
- Completed Neville Road street project Phase 1 from Bulldog Lane to 5th Street.
- Completed Hacker Road street project from 2nd Street to Caldwell Street.
- Construction work for drainage and sanitary sewer improvements, Harvey Phase I Funding (GLO) CDBG-DR project. Work to begin on February 15, 2021.



**WHAT PHONE NUMBER DO I
CALL FOR AFTER HOURS WATER
& SEWER PROBLEMS?**

If you experience an emergency water or Sewer problem outside of normal business hours call (409) 795-7595.

**RESIDENT SURVEY FOR CDBG
GRANT APPLICATION**

As part of Hitchcock's efforts to secure grant funding for infrastructure improvements and community development, representatives of GrantWorks, Inc. will be in the community performing a survey of area residents. We request that you cooperate with the GrantWorks survey team so that they can gather the needed information for a CDBG Community Development Block Grant through the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Names of the surveyors are:
Garrett Hines, Will Hernandez, and Kirk Dibbens.

These gentlemen are representing GrantWorks, Inc. and Hitchcock. You may ask them for formal identification.

If you have any questions call City Hall at (409) 986-5591.

ANNUAL CHLORINE MAINTENANCE



Gulf Coast Water Authority (GWCA) will be conducting their annual chlorine maintenance to the water supply and distribution system beginning on April 12th, 2021 and ending on April 26th, 2021. The City of Hitchcock will conduct the same chlorine maintenance to its water supply and distribution system in conjunction with GCWA.

The City of Hitchcock will continue to monitor chlorine levels and water quality through its system to ensure that all state and regulatory standards are met.

What does this mean? During this chlorine maintenance you can expect a higher level of chlorine within the water system resulting in a more noticeable odor of chlorine, a slight chlorine taste, as well as a slight discoloration or cloudiness to the water. This is normal and common to happen during chlorine maintenance of a water system.

What does chlorine maintenance do? Chlorine maintenance of a water system is done to help maintain the system infrastructure and water quality. This is done to ensure that the safest and highest quality of water is provided.

Is it safe? Yes! The quality of the water is safe for use throughout this process. Customers who use tap water for kidney dialysis at home should consult their doctor to advise them if any changes are necessary for their residual disinfectant neutralization procedures.

Question or comments can be addressed during normal business hours at city hall. 409-986-5591
The City of Hitchcock appreciates the residents' patience and understanding during this chlorine maintenance procedure.



HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
MARY COMBS DEMBY	CITY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)502-0424
CHRIS ARMACOST	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2	district2@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)519-9646
Wayne Newton	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
ANDRE PERKINS	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-1375
MARIE GELLES	CITY MANAGER	mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
WILMON SMITH	CHIEF OF POLICE	wsmith@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
RUTH ANN SORRELL	CITY SECRETARY/COURT CLERK	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
CANDIE SERNA	CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICIAL	cserna@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5591
NATALIE WILSON	ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATOR	nwilson@hitchcockpd.com	(409)750-1517
FRED WELCH	INTERIM EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HEDC	hedc@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)502-7331
HENRY DEBORD	BUILDING INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-0822
HEATHER HEBERT	PERMIT CLERK	hhebert@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERVISOR	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)761-0737
MIGUEL DELGADO	INTERIM WWTP OPERATOR		(409)986-5591
FIRE MARSHALL	DARRON RAY	fire@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 457-6258
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE		(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409)795-7595
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559