

# NEWS RELEASE

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## EDEN PRAIRIE POLICE URGE RESIDENTS TO SECURE GARAGE DOORS

**Eden Prairie, Minn.** — Due to a recent spike in thefts from unsecured residential garages, **Eden Prairie Police** are urging residents to take notice and take action.

In the first three weeks of June, Eden Prairie Police received 26 reports of residential burglaries, more than twice the number reported in the month of May. These crimes are occurring at all hours of the day, on all days of the week, and in almost all cases, they are the result of an open garage door or an unlocked entrance.

“We are asking residents to take extra caution and to look out for each other,” said Eden Prairie Police Sergeant **Bob Olson**. “When you enter or leave your own garage, take a minute to be sure the door closes all the way. And if you notice an open garage door or other suspicious activity in your neighborhood, let somebody know.”

Eden Prairie Police observe dozens of open garage doors left unattended every day, and just last week officers tracked more than 50 during one overnight shift. When this happens, Officers will attempt to notify someone inside the home, or leave a door tag reminder to notify residents when they return.

Residents are also encouraged to use caution when storing valuables in garages, or in vehicles, even if they are parked in a driveway or garage. If criminals can see valuable items inside an unsecured garage or car, it makes sense that they are likely to target them for theft.

“These are crimes of opportunity,” said Olson. “If we take away the opportunity, by securing garages and valuables, the crimes are much less likely to occur.”

As always, Eden Prairie Police remind all residents to call 911 in an emergency or to report suspicious activity.

The City of Eden Prairie is a vibrant community of more than 60,000 people located just southwest of Minneapolis. Eden Prairie has been nationally recognized as a great place to live, work and raise a family. In 2006, MONEY Magazine named Eden Prairie the 10<sup>th</sup> “Best Place to Live” in America.

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