PERSONAL SAFETY SERIES

10-MINUTE HOME SAFETY AUDIT

Walk your home like a stranger would.

This is not about turning your home into a fortress. It is about finding easy-to-fix vulnerabilities before someone else notices them.

1 FRONT DOOR

Does it close, latch, and lock securely? Check the strike plate and hardware for looseness.

2 OTHER EXTERIOR DOORS

Check side, basement, patio, and garage-to-house doors - not just the front entrance.

3 WINDOWS

Confirm accessible windows lock properly and cannot be easily lifted or slid open.

4 SLIDING DOORS

Use a functioning lock and, where appropriate, a secondary pin/dowel or other device that prevents forced sliding/lifting.

5 GARAGE

Close and secure the overhead garage door and lock the door between an attached garage and the living area.

6 EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Check entrances, driveway, walkways, side yards, and other dark areas. Replace burned-out lights.

7 LANDSCAPING

Trim shrubs and vegetation that create hiding places near doors, windows, or walkways.

8 HOUSE NUMBERS

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the street, including at night, so emergency responders can find you.

9 KEYS & CODES

Know who has keys, garage codes, door codes, or smart-home access. Change access you no longer want shared.

10 YOUR PLAN

Know where you would go, who you would call, and how you would secure yourself if something happened outside your home.

HOME SECURITY REDUCES OPPORTUNITY - IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE SAFETY

Prioritize practical improvements you will consistently use. If you see signs of forced entry or believe someone may be inside your home, move to safety and call 911 rather than entering to investigate.

Sources: Salt Lake City Police - Home Security Checklist; Southport Police - Home Security Checklist

General safety and educational information. In an emergency or immediate danger, call 911.