

CARAVAN AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SECURITY

PREVENTING CRIME



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE



**Government
of South Australia**



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South Australia Police (SAPOL) is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live and visit.

In the interest of keeping SA safe, we encourage you to read this booklet and share the information with your family, friends, fellow travellers and neighbours.

We hope you find the enclosed information useful when you are home or out and about and that it will assist you in feeling and being safe and secure.

SECURITY AND SAFETY TIPS PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR YOUR TRIP

PREVENTING CRIME



It's important to keep your 'home away from home' just as secure as you would your actual house if you were going away. To help prevent thieves targeting your car, caravan, RV and property whilst you are travelling, consider implementing these security tips:

- Secure your number plates on your car, caravan and RV with tamper-resistant screws to prevent number plate theft. The screws have a one-way head which means although they can be tightened to fix the plate, screwdrivers cannot grip in an anticlockwise direction to remove them. Refer to page 15 for more information.



- Install an audible alarm or engine immobiliser/wireless trailer interface or GPS tracking device in your vehicle(s) so you can activate it every time you leave your vehicle.
- Consider installing additional and 'very visual' security devices such as key operated wheel clamps, tow ball coupling locks with padlocks, steering locks and dual door handle/locks. These devices can deter a thief from attempting to tamper or steal your property.
- Install an internal light which switches on automatically when it gets dark to make



the caravan or RV look occupied. You may even install some external sensor lights for when you are parked in the bush or away from a caravan park.

- Consider installing a safe in the boot of your car or in your caravan or RV for smaller valuables, e.g. mobile phones, iPads, jewellery.

Following are some simple tips on keeping a record and being able to identify all your property that you will be taking on your trip:

- In the event that you become a victim of vehicle theft during your travels, it's a simpler process when making a report to police if you have records of serial, model, VIN, chassis and registration numbers including photographs of your vehicles and property. Make sure to keep these records in a secure yet accessible location.
- Most caravans (particularly newer models) have VIN (17 digits) and chassis numbers welded onto the 'A' frame (drawbar). These numbers identify your particular caravan, so if your caravan was stolen and the thief attempted to sell it the new buyer would be advised it was stolen when they attempted to register the caravan. Ensure you record the registration plate numbers of your car, caravan and RV along with the VIN and chassis numbers and keep them secure. Should one of these items be stolen, this will make it easier to report it to police.
- Take clear photos of your car, caravan and RV. Using the camera app on a



mobile telephone is a quick and easy way to record these images.

- Consider marking or engraving some of your property with your driver's licence number prefixed by the letter 'S' for South Australia (e.g. 'B23456' would be 'SB23456') as a deterrent to thieves. If your property is stolen and is marked accordingly, the chances of items being returned to you by the police are increased. Ensure your address details on your driver's licence are current.

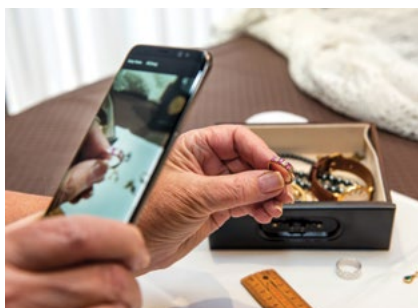


- Record and photograph the make, model and serial number of electronic equipment, such as GPS devices, laptops, cameras and mobile phones. You may want to use an ultraviolet (uv) pen on these delicate items. Ensure you store this information in a safe place or with a trusted family member or friend in the event that you may need it.



Engravers and ultraviolet pens/torches can be purchased online and in hardware stores.

Some items are not suitable for engraving or marking, e.g. jewellery, silverware and antiques. These items should be photographed.



- Place a ruler beside the smaller items when photographing them to give an idea of their size.
- Don't forget to take photos of your other property such as bicycles, canoes, surfboards.

For your convenience refer to page 16 for a Property Record.

Consider the following suggestions to assist in making your home secure and appear 'lived in' whilst you're away:

- Install sensor lights around your property.
- Tidy your garden and trim any trees or shrubs that are close to windows. Heavily shaded windows create excellent hiding spots for potential thieves. You may want to consider the services of a gardener if you will be away for a long period of time, e.g. cutting lawn.
- Don't leave your keys or valuables on the kitchen bench or where they can easily be seen through windows by thieves. Keep them in a safe place out of view.
- If you're travelling with your caravan or RV – which is usually parked at your home – ensure that your trusted neighbours know that you are away and when you will return. Provide them with your contact details should they need to contact you.
- Consider arranging a house sitter or ask a trusted neighbour for help to bring the council bins in (if you've left them out), collect the deliveries of your newspapers/parcels and empty the letterbox daily (if



you haven't organised for these items to be held or redirected).

- Ask your neighbour to ring the police on Triple Zero (000) immediately if they see something suspicious.

Prior to you leaving your home, ensure the following is done:

- Close and lock all doors and windows to your home.
- If you have an alarm, activate it.

And for your caravan or RV:

- Secure your valuable items in drawers, cupboards or a safe. Don't leave them visible in your caravan or RV.
- Draw the curtains closed in your caravan or RV so that the interior is not readily visible to others when you make brief stops.

- Ensure items such as canoes, surfboards, fishing rods or tin boats (tinnies) are secured to the roof racks of your car or on/in your caravan or RV. Ensure bicycles are safely secured with a padlocked chain or other security device. Gas cylinders can be secured in the cylinder bins of your caravan or RV or nestled safely and securely on the 'A' frame using a keyed padlock. The same can be done with spare fuel containers.

For information and advice on how to prepare for bushfires and other emergencies refer to page 10 of this booklet 'Bushfire and Emergency Traveller Safety'.

For further crime prevention tips visit:

www.police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/crime-prevention-and-security

SECURITY TIPS DURING YOUR TRIP

PREVENTING CRIME



You're packed and ready to start your journey... here's a number of simple safety and security measures for you to consider whilst you're travelling to your destination:

- Remove temptation. Never leave valuables visible in your car, caravan or RV when you leave it to stop to refuel, rest or have personal comfort stops. Conceal your personal items in the boot of your car or store them in a drawer, cupboard or security box/safe in your caravan or RV prior to making your stop.
- Thieves will look into vehicles to see what items can be easily stolen. Even a small amount of cash in the centre console may be the catalyst for becoming a target. Don't leave personal items in your glove box – particularly if you're unable to lock it.
- Consider having a rest stop every few hours to stretch your legs and get some

fresh air to keep you alert. If stopping for a personal comfort break, don't leave the engine of your car or RV running if it is unattended. Close all windows and lock your vehicle doors.

- If driving through hours of darkness and you need a quick power nap, consider



parking in a well-lit location - such as a shopping centre car park or outside a police station - and make sure your vehicles are locked. If you're in a remote area, use lights to illuminate your vehicle and ensure you have utilised as many security devices as possible.

- If you have installed an audible alarm or immobiliser/wireless trailer interface, activate it every time you leave your vehicle.
- Pilot lights are the small gas flames that light larger ones in ovens and fridges in vehicles such as campervans, caravans, food vans and boats. The law states that all pilot lights must be extinguished before entering a service station.
- When refuelling your car, RV or fuel cans, don't place handbags, wallets or other valuable items on the passenger seat where they could easily be grabbed by an opportunistic thief. Close your windows and lock your car or RV whilst refuelling and paying for fuel.



Consider these security tips when you arrive at your destination:

- If arriving at night, park your caravan or RV in a well-lit and secure area, if possible.
- Don't reverse into your space. Instead put the hitch away from the standard access which means that a thief would have to turn your car and caravan or RV around to escape – and that takes longer.



- When stationary, remove surfboards, fishing rods, eskies, etc. from the rear or top of your vehicle if possible and secure them inside the boot of your car or inside your caravan or RV. As mentioned previously, if you're unable to put a bicycle inside your vehicle (out of sight) then ensure you have secured it safely with a padlocked chain or other security device. Gas cylinders can be secured in the cylinder bins of your caravan or RV or affixed safely and securely on the 'A' frame using a keyed padlock. The same can be done with spare fuel containers.



- Securely attach trailers or boats to a vehicle or a solid fixture when not in use.

Now that you've settled in for the day/ week, etc. consider the following security suggestions:

- Lock all windows, roof hatches and doors when you leave your caravan or RV even if it's for a short time, e.g. going to the bathroom or communal kitchen area, and take your keys with you. Thieves are opportunistic; they could be watching who is coming and going from your unlocked caravan or RV.
- If leaving your caravan or RV for a period of time, consider closing the curtains so that the interior of the caravan or RV is not readily visible.
- Don't hide a spare set of keys anywhere in or around your car, caravan or RV.

Consider wearing a lanyard to carry your keys around your neck and under your clothing.

- If you're out for the evening and you don't have sensor lights installed in and/ or around your caravan or RV, consider leaving a light, radio or TV on and draw your curtains closed. This will assist in making your caravan or RV appear occupied.
- During your stay, familiarise yourself with and talk to your neighbours and arrange to keep an eye on each other's vans/ property. Ask them to ring the police on Triple Zero (000) if they see something suspicious.



BUSHFIRE AND EMERGENCY TRAVELLER SAFETY

PREVENTING CRIME



Fire restrictions apply throughout South Australia's Fire Ban Districts during the Fire Danger Season (normally from October/ November through to April). Knowing which Fire Ban District you are visiting is the first step in finding out which restrictions apply.

During the Fire Danger Season restrictions are placed on lighting fires and/or barbecues to reduce the chances of large fires starting. These restrictions are escalated when a Total Fire Ban day is declared.

To find your district, rating, if it's a Total Fire Ban day and to stay informed about bushfires and other emergencies in the district you are living in or travelling through:

- Visit the Country Fire Service (CFS) website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- Call the Bushfire Information Hotline: 1800 362 361 (TTY 133 677)

- If you are hearing or speech impaired, contact CFS via the **National Relay Service** by calling TTY 1300 555 727
- Facebook: **countryfireservice** or **cfsupdates**
- Visit the CFS website for information on how to subscribe to their bushfire advice and warnings.

Another way to be informed and obtain updates on fires and emergencies is to listen to ABC Local Radio, FIVEaa Radio or watch Sky News Television or ABC News 24. There are over 80 radio stations throughout South Australia, so visit the CFS website and read the 'Bushfire Traveller Safety' brochure to check which radio station covers the areas you will be visiting or staying in. This brochure can also be found at Visitor Information Centres, holiday/caravan parks and local councils throughout South Australia.

In the event of power outages or losing your mobile telephone signal, it's recommended you keep a battery powered or wind-up radio ready so you can still listen to the radio for updates on weather conditions and CFS warnings.

Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your travel route or holiday location. Prior to leaving for your trip, set aside some time to organise a Bushfire or Emergency Survival Plan, pack an emergency kit and know where

(throughout your travel route) you can locate a 'Bushfire Safer Place' and 'Bushfire Last Resort Refuge'. The CFS website provides you with multiple fact sheets on how to keep yourself safe during your travels.

To access key public safety and emergency information sources from a wide range of emergency and essential service agencies, government and community partners visit www.alert.sa.gov.au



SECURING YOUR CARAVAN OR RV UPON RETURNING HOME

PREVENTING CRIME



Storing your caravan or RV at home is just as important as securing your house and its contents. Following are a number of crime prevention suggestions to keep your caravan or RV secure:

- Install sensor lights around your home where your caravan or RV will be stored – they are an excellent deterrent to a potential thief.
- If your caravan will be parked at your home, consider having a dyna bolted anchor in the concrete driveway/parking bay and entwine a padlocked chain through the anchor point and the 'A' frame of your caravan.
- Consider using additional security such as key operated wheel clamps, hitch security devices, alarm, steering lock, tow bar coupling locks, engine immobiliser/ wireless trailer interface or a GPS tracking device.
- Never leave valuables visible in your caravan or RV when you store it. If



possible remove them from the vehicle and secure them elsewhere.

- Draw the curtains closed so that the interior of the caravan or RV is not readily visible.
- Lock all windows, roof hatches and doors to your caravan or RV.
- Don't hide a spare set of keys anywhere in or around your caravan or RV.
- Consider putting a cover over your caravan or RV and tying it up securely.
- If you are unable to securely store your caravan or RV at home, consider storing it in a locked building or commercial storage facility.
- If you leave your caravan or RV at home when you go away, e.g. flying overseas, tell your neighbours that you will be absent and that you haven't given anybody permission to use the vehicle(s).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS BOOKLET HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CARAVAN & CAMPING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SA INC
AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SA

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The Caravan and Camping Industries Association of SA (CCIASA) aims to grow caravan and camping activity within South Australia, and promote a commitment to service excellence among members, for our community.

We provide multiple guides on our website www.caravanandcampingsa.com.au including the SA Let's Go Caravan and Camping Almanac, the important National Towing Guide and the SA Caravan and Camping Guide.

Our 120 members are comprised of caravan, camping and associated products and service businesses in South Australia. Members go through annual training and development sessions, keeping them abreast of the latest Australian Design Rules and cutting-edge products and materials.

Many of our members can assist you in ensuring that your caravan, RV and accessories are safe and secure.

We hope you enjoy caravan and camping in our wonderful state.



Neighbourhood Watch SA is all about local people, in your local neighbourhood coming together with South Australia Police to create a safe and connected community. By bringing neighbours and police together, we can help to solve local issues, raise awareness about improved safety and prevent crime.

Caravanners are a distinct community and as such, NHW is as relevant to you as it is in the normal residential community setting. It is all about looking after each other.

Becoming a NHW volunteer enables you to develop closer links to your neighbourhood and have a say in the direction of your community. You could become part of the solution for any local concerns or issues by working collaboratively with police.

Neighbourhood Watch SA regularly hold 'Plate Safe' days in different Neighbourhood

Watch areas where police officers and volunteers fit tamper-resistant number plate screws to vehicles free of charge. For more information on this service or how to obtain these screws for self-fitting visit www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw and use our postcode locator to find your local group, or contact the NHW State Coordinator at SAPOL.NeighbourhoodWatch@police.sa.gov.au

Keep up-to-date with what's happening in your neighbourhood by liking and following **NeighbourhoodWatchSA** on Facebook and subscribing to the NHW News mailing list on the NHW website.



PROPERTY RECORD

List all relevant details including any dents, scratches or individual marks.
Take photos and upload images to a memory bank device/cloud.
Keep the list in a safe place and leave a copy with a trusted relative or friend.
Consider marking your property with your driver's licence number.

INSURANCE PROVIDER:

PHONE NUMBER:

POLICY NUMBER(S):

[illegible]



If you love culture or nature, South Australia offers many great adventures.

It is no wonder so many people pack up a 'home away from home' and live life on the road exploring this great state in a caravan or a recreational vehicle (RV).

The security of your caravan and RV is important to us, therefore we've created this booklet and encourage you to read and consider actioning the simple security and crime prevention tips to assist you in protecting your property.

For further information on crime prevention tips or to find your local police station in South Australia visit www.police.sa.gov.au

EMERGENCIES

Call Triple Zero (000) when there is an emergency.

For example, any situation where life or injury is threatened or any event that may cause danger to people or property.



NON-EMERGENCIES

Call 131 444 for non-urgent police assistance.

For example, reporting a crime that has already happened, reporting a missing person or making general police related enquiries.

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