

EMPOWERMENT BEATS CRIME EVERY TIME!

No 18 in a Series of Security Tips

GRIFFITHSREID

PROVIDING INTELLIGENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS

MOBILISE THE DOMESTIC GRAPEVINE TO BEAT CRIME!

Workers are often in the line of fire during house robberies and are abused by criminals who use them to prey on employers.

The robbers usually often use violence to intimidate and scare them into divulging important information about the premises. Domestic workers, gardeners and even companies' messengers and delivery staff ought to be briefed by their employers on how to cope with robberies and burglaries. Most messengers interact with each other and many domestic workers have become part of the house family. They should be informed about the ploys used by criminals to obtain information about their targets.

In many suburban communities these domestic workers have established a very effective "domestic grapevine" where these sharp-eyed mamas & sisters communicate with each other. If effective advice is provided to a few, they could quickly inform their peers and in this way an entire community will benefit.

What domestics and other workers should be told:

1. Stress the importance of home or office security and why unauthorised people should not be allowed inside.
2. Doors and gates are to remain closed and locked while papers and ID documents must be passed through security bars or the closed gate.
3. Strangers should stay outside until their identities have been checked and their reasons for visiting approved.
4. Have ID documents copied if in an office or details written down at a house.
5. The owner should be phoned and he/she should phone the employer to confirm his ID.
6. If at all unsure, inform the security company patrolling the area.
7. Provide all emergency telephone numbers of the owner, the police, security company and other relevant associations in an easily understandable list. A copy of the list should be prominently displayed at the phone.
8. Explain why everybody should be vigilant regarding strange markings on the pavement and garden walls. Also undue interest shown by strangers passing by in cars and other vehicles parked at the place.
9. In the discussion stress the importance of being in control by keeping unwanted locked people out and if not possible, some methods of raising the alarm and applying self defence.
10. Have pepper spray cans, teargas and panic buttons within easy reach of doors and gates.

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