



The Elk Mound Police Department asks: What is your Criminal SAT Score?

Criminals can be smart and crafty by taking advantage of victims through opportunity. If we understand how to make ourselves less vulnerable, **we can help deter crime in the Village of Elk Mound!** Think “*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.*” **How does a suspect use their Criminal SAT?**

S—Surveillance *Will I be seen? Can anyone notice, document, or record what I am doing?*

A—Access *Can I enter and exit easily? Is it a burden to move around freely?*

T—Territory *Does anyone really care what happens here? Can I do what I want, when I want?*

Here are some points to consider ([click the links to Village Ordinances](#)):

- **Don't post on social media when you're on vacation** or away from home for an extended period of time. Only share this information with a trusted person, like a close friend, neighbor or relative! Contact Elk Mound Police about activating an **Area Watch Bulletin** if an extended absence is expected, so EMPD is aware and can have local keyholder information in the event of an emergency. *Try to limit the knowledge of your home or business being vacant while you're gone; don't "advertise" the fact "nobody is around to deter criminal activity!"* (**Access**)
- **Shovel right after a fresh snow and keep lawns trimmed.** Clearing sidewalks of snow or ice not only follows [Elk Mound Village Ordinance 6-2-7](#), and keeping grass mowed follows [Ordinance 8-1-6](#), but also tells a criminal someone cares for the property. If on vacation, have a trusted friend, relative or neighbor help with these chores. *If there are no foot or tire tracks in the snow, if nobody is removing the snow, or if nobody bothers to take care of the lawn, is anyone around to care?* (**Territory**)
- **Keep trees and shrubs trimmed, especially away from windows and doors.** Don't give a criminal someplace to hide— reveal who is near your home. Consider low-growing shrubs with thorns under windows to dissuade anyone from “window peeping.” Contact your favorite lawn care or garden center for recommendations which also follow [Ordinances in 6-4](#). (**Surveillance, Access and Territory**)
- **Keep the property free from debris.** Taking pride and ownership shows you value the property, which includes keeping your home free from hazards ([Ordinances 8-1-2 through 8-1-8](#)) and junk ([Ordinances 11-6-3 and 11-6-6](#)). Take advantage of the solid waste and recycling site on [East Elk Mound Drive](#) for proper disposal! (**Territory**)
- **Consider upgrading your lights.** Contact your favorite electrician about exterior lighting, “dusk to dawn” lights, or motion lighting. Think about putting interior lights on timers. (**Surveillance and Access**)
- **Consider security cameras.** Explore options like closed-circuit security video, “trail cameras,” doorbell cameras or camera-embedded lights to monitor who is coming and going from your home when you're away. (**Surveillance**)
- **Keep doors and windows locked; keep buildings and vehicles secured.** Don't answer the door for people you don't know—don't fall for the scams of “*I just ran out of gas,*” “*I just need to use the bathroom,*” or [door-to-door salespeople not following Ordinance 7-4](#), especially at unusual hours. Don't leave keys in vehicles or keep doors open to outbuildings. Don't park your vehicle on the street for more than 48 hours ([Ordinance 10-1-20](#)). (**Access**)
- **[Questions?](#)** Please contact **Elk Mound Police** at (715) 879-4411 or police@elkmoundpd.org, and always **be Safe!**