



1600 Hamilton Place
Community Association
San Jose, CA 95125

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March 19, 2013

1600 Hamilton Place Residents,

As discussed in the Open Forum of last week's Board Meeting, break-ins of detached garages continue to be a problem. Hamilton Place Security is concentrating their patrols on our interior streets during the nights, both on foot and in their marked cars.

The break-ins occur by tampering with the emergency cable release lock in the center of garage door or with the wired key switch lock on the side. In most cases, brute force has been used to pry the lock out in order to pull the cable or activate the opener.

Here are some things you may want to consider doing:

- **Deactivate your key switch.** Even if you never use it, your old key switch may still be activated. They pry out the switch, connect the wires and your door opens. If you need to use a key switch, upgrade to a double edge or circular key with a steel reinforced housing or try carrying a small wireless remote instead. See image 1 below.
- **Deactivate your emergency cable release lock.** Unhook your emergency cable from the red release handle, use your key to unlock the lock and pull the cable all the way out. They will see there is no cable to pull and move on. If you just disconnect the cable, they will pry the lock out only to find that the cable is disconnected and then move on. **CAUTION:** If you do this, you will not be able to manually get into your garage in the event of an opener failure or power outage. Hopefully, these criminals will be caught or move on so we can reactivate the emergency cable release locks. See images 2 and 3 below.
- **Install a secondary lock over your emergency cable release lock.** In order to keep your emergency release cable activated so you can use it in an emergency, you may want to install a secondary locking hasp over the lock. The 3.5" Everbilt Key Locking Hasp (#104) is available from The Home Depot for \$8 and installs over your cable release lock. For wood doors, you can use the provided screws. For aluminum doors, additional bolts/washers/nuts are needed. Check out the installed locking hasp by the Foxhall carwash area. Other hasps which use a padlock or combination are not permitted. See image 4 below.

The important thing is to do something before you're hit! Nothing is foolproof, but anything is better than nothing. Please note that the HOA neither warrants or guarantees any suggestions or products. The decision is yours. If you need help, ask your neighbor!

Report any situation to Hamilton Place Security by leaving a voicemail with the details. If requested, one of our Officers will contact you directly. This posting will be put on the HOA website at www.1600hamiltonplace.org.



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