

What is Operation Identification?

Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in homes and businesses. The Operation ID program involves the marking of property with an identifying number as means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, Operation Identification has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

The Operation ID Program is comprised of two parts:

- First: Mark your valuables with your Driver's License Number so that your property can be easily traced and identified as yours.
- Second: Display a sticker which tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked.

Do not mark property with your social security number because the police do not have access to social security information.

Why is Operation ID so Effective?

Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or re-sell. It can be traced to the rightful owner with relative ease. And, if the burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

Engraving kits may be checked out from Arlington Fire Department Stations or the Police Stations

How to Participate

To participate in Operation Identification, citizens may borrow an electric engraving tool from any of the Arlington Fire stations. Civic groups and clubs are encouraged to purchase engravers to be used by members. Apartment managers can also provide engravers for tenants. Engravers are inexpensive and can be purchased at most home improvement centers if citizens would like to own an engraver.

Your Driver's License Number should be used as your identifying mark on valuables which you engrave. Citizens who do not have a Texas Operators License may use the number from the identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. A typical marking should look like this: TX3596731

The Driver's License Number should be engraved on an area that can not be easily dismantled, and which is not easily seen.

After marking your property, make a list of your valuables and keep a copy of the list in a safe place. If you should subsequently become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from the list. This will be of great help to the police in their attempts to recover the stolen possessions.

Once property has been marked and a list made, display an Operation Identification sticker at doors and windows which might be used for entry. By advertising your participation in Operation ID in this way, you are announcing that your valuable property has been marked and will be difficult for the burglar to resell. Often the presence of the sticker alone is enough to deter a burglar.

Do not, however, display an Operation ID sticker without first engraving your property.

Burglary is the most frequently committed crime in the United States. By participating in Operation ID you are taking one important step to protect your possessions from burglary and theft.

There are many other crime prevention anti-burglary precautions which you can take to protect your home, property, business, and family. For further information, contact the Arlington Police Department.

Mark these Possessions

The items listed below are those most commonly stolen from homes and businesses:

■ <u>Electronic Equipment:</u> TV Sets VCRs DVD Systems Stereo/CD Equipment Radios Video Games Cameras Camcorders Computer Equipment	Tool Boxes Ladders Lawn Equipment Lawn Mowers
■ <u>Vehicle Items:</u> Stereos Radar Detectors Battery CB Radio Hub Caps Mag Wheels Speakers	■ <u>Household Items:</u> Microwaves Washer and Dryer Toaster, Toaster Oven Bread Ovens Coffee Makers Furniture Vacuums
■ <u>Sporting Goods:</u> Binoculars Bicycles Motorcycles Motor Scooters Guns and Knives Bows / Crossbows Fishing Rods / Reels Tackle Boxes Baseball Bats, Gloves Golf Clubs Outboard Motors	■ <u>Engrave or Photograph:</u> Musical Instruments Jewelry / Antiques Silverware / China Watches
■ <u>Garage Items and Tools:</u> Power tools Hand Tools	