



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Q: What do I need to do when going on vacation or being away from home for an extended period of time?

A: When you are going to be away from your home for an extended period of time, you need to do a few things to keep your home and personal items safe.

- 1) Stop your mail or have someone pick it up every day.
- 2) Notify the Law Enforcement Center and be placed on our house-check list.
- 3) Don't let everyone know you are going to be gone, but let a friend or family member know where you are and how to call you.
- 4) In the summer, have someone mow your lawn. In the winter, have someone clean your driveway and/or sidewalks.
- 5) Put lights, radios and/or televisions on timers, but make sure that the areas where these are sitting are not easily checked by looking through a window.
- 6) Place outside lights on motion detectors and make sure they are turned on.
- 7) Make sure that any and all electrical appliances are off and, if possible, unplugged.
- 8) If you can, shut off the main water supply coming into your house to prevent damage in case a pipe should break.
- 9) Lock your doors.

Troy D. Matejcek

Investigator

Steele County Sheriff's Office