



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release September 30, 2014

During the past month of September, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office has taken six residential burglaries with numerous firearms stolen. All but one of the burglaries was a forced entry into the home, with the weapons being taken from a bedroom. Only half of the reported firearms listed on the crime reports were listed with their serial numbers.

Kootenai County Sheriff's Office is asking the public to please do the following:

- Keep your homes locked and secured when not at home.
- Place firearms in a secure and locked location if possible.
- Make a list of your property (including firearms) listing all the serial numbers. For jewelry and other type items, photograph the items placing the photographs onto a CD. Make two copies of your list and CD, securing them in two different locations. Doing this will greatly increase the chances of your property being returned to you if stolen.
- Report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood to your local law enforcement agency.

If you reside within the unincorporated areas of the County as well our contract cities including Athol, Dalton Gardens, Fernan, Harrison, Hayden, Hauser, Huetter and Worley, you may be interested in the following programs:

- Neighborhood Watch Program
- Home Safety Security Check

A Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear in your neighborhood. It is neighbors helping neighbors, and being extra eyes and ears for reporting crime.

A Home Safety Security Check is having a member of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office come to your home and conduct a full interior and exterior inspection with strategies to make your home more secure.

If you are interested in additional information on the above programs, please call Gary Shults at 208-446-2121.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Gary Shults, Community Service Officer