

March 6th, 2009

**Special points of interest:**

- **Open Garage Doors**
- **Nigerian Scam**
- **Warning signs of gang involvement**
- **Cyber bullying**
- **I.C.E. emergency contacts**
- **Upcoming Events**

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# Crime Prevention

## Open Garage Doors

Most homeowners perceive burglars breaking a window or forcing a door open to gain access into a home. Not so, nearly half of all residential burglaries in the city occur through an unlocked door or window. But the quickest and simplest means for most burglars to gain entry has been an open garage door.

Some items targeted have been beer and other alcoholic beverages which certainly are not a good mix for already misguided young people.

The remedy is a simple one; please secure your garage and residence to reduce your risk of



**HELP CLOSE THE DOOR ON CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

becoming a victim of these types of crimes of opportunity. If you observe that your neighbor has inadvertently forgotten to secure the residence please give them a reminder call. This behavior will provide a clear vision that your

community does not support criminal or mischievous behavior.

In the event you witness this type of behavior in progress please call 911 and provide a description of the suspect, vehicle and direction of travel. If you observe some suspicious activities that you believe might become a criminal activity please contact the Apex Police Department immediately at 362-8661.



“Open garage door” Indicators

## Crime Prevention Tips

1. Secure all accessible entry points: Simply securing your home significantly reduces your chances of being victimized. As mentioned previously, nearly half of all the residential burglaries occur through an open or unlocked door or window.
2. Create the “illusion of occupancy.” Research clearly indicates the single greatest deterrent is an occupied house! Anyone at home, even children, should

“acknowledge” anyone who knocks or rings the doorbell. Opening a door and “acknowledging” someone at the door are two different things. **DO NOT OPEN** the door to a stranger! Announce yourself through a closed door and indicate “this is not a good time for visitors.”

3. Burglars work close to home: Most burglars operate within a comfort zone, either close to home or work. If a burglar

lives near you, an open garage door is an “open invitation” to your house.





*“These advance-fee solicitations are scams. And according to the FTC, the scam artists are playing each and every consumer for a fool.”*

## The "Nigerian" Scam: Costly Compassion

### Federal trade commission

Nigerian advance-fee fraud has been around for decades, but now seems to have reached epidemic proportions: Some consumers have told the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) they are receiving dozens of offers a day from supposed Nigerians politely promising big profits in exchange for help moving large sums of money out of their country. And apparently, many compassionate consumers are continuing to fall for the convincing sob stories, the unfailingly polite language, and the unequivocal promises of money. These advance-fee solicitations are scams. And according to the FTC, the scam artists are playing each and every consumer for a fool. Here's the play book:

Claiming to be Nigerian officials, businesspeople or the surviving spouses of former government honchos, con artists offer to transfer millions of dollars into your bank account in exchange for a small fee. If you respond to the initial offer, you may receive "official looking" documents. Typically, you're then asked to provide blank letterhead and your bank account numbers, as well as some money to cover transaction and transfer costs and attorney's fees.

You may even be encouraged to travel to Nigeria or a border country to complete the transaction. Sometimes, the fraudsters will produce trunks of dyed or stamped money to verify their claims. Inevitably, though, emergencies come up, requiring more of your money and delaying the "transfer" of funds to your account; in the end, there aren't any profits for you to share, and the scam artist has vanished with your money.

### If You Receive an Offer

If you're tempted to respond to an offer, the FTC suggests you stop and ask yourself two important questions: Why would a perfect stranger pick you – also a perfect stranger – to share a fortune with, and why would you share your personal or business information, including your bank account numbers or your company letterhead, with someone you don't know?

If you receive an offer via email from someone claiming to need your help getting money out of Nigeria – or any other country, for that matter – forward it to the FTC at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov).

## Warning signs of gang involvement

### GANGS IN APEX?

Don't panic. This headline is more of an attention-getter than actual reality. However as a town sandwiched between cities like Raleigh and Durham, it is still crucial to be familiar with signs and activity associated with different local gangs. We as the police department also want to use this platform to alert parents to indicators and signs typically associated with gang appearance and behavior.

Some of the signs for which to look are:

- obsession with certain colors and numbers
- sudden interest in seemingly random sports teams (jerseys/hats)
- unexplained symbols/signs on belongings/property
- change in behavior and or friends.

Again, this article is not to imply that Apex is encountering extreme gang issues, however, in a day in which local schools are not populated exclusively with local residents, it is imperative that we stay educated and updated with the challenges our youth may face today.

Master Officer Jason Stone  
Apex High School SRO

More Information about NC gangs can be found at:  
[www.ncgangcops.org/gangs.html](http://www.ncgangcops.org/gangs.html)



*“Do not erase  
the messages or  
pictures. Save  
these as  
evidence.”*

## Cyber bullying

### *Tips for dealing with cyber bullying that your child has experienced:*

Because cyber bullying can range from rude comments to lies, impersonations, and threats, your responses may depend on the nature and severity of the cyber bullying. Here are some actions that you may want to take after-the-fact.

- Strongly encourage your child not to respond to the cyber bullying.
- Do not erase the messages or pictures. Save these as evidence.
- Try to identify the individual doing the cyber bullying. Even if the cyber bully is anonymous (e.g., is using a fake name or someone else's identity) there may be a way to track them through your Internet Service Provider.
- Sending inappropriate language may violate the “Terms and Conditions” of e-mail services, Internet Service Providers, web sites, and cell phone companies. Consider contacting these providers and filing a complaint.
- If the cyber bullying is coming through e-mail or a cell phone, it may be possible to block future contact from the cyber bully. Of course, the cyber bully may assume a different identity and continue the bullying.

**Mom, Dad...  
I'm scared**



More Information contact:  
[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)



**APEX POLICE DEPARTMENT**

205 Saunders Street  
Apex, NC 27502

Phone: 919-362-8661  
Emergency: 911



**Cyber bullying cont.**

- Contact your school. If the cyber bullying is occurring through your school district's Internet system, school administrators have an obligation to intervene. Even if the cyber bullying is occurring off campus, make your school administrators aware of the problem. They may be able to help you resolve the cyber bullying or be watchful for face-to-face bullying.
- Consider contacting the cyber bully's parents. These parents may be very concerned to learn that their child has been cyber bullying others, and they may effectively put a stop to the bullying. Present proof of the cyber bullying (e.g., copies of an e-mail message) and ask them to make sure the cyber bullying stops.
- Contact the police if cyber bullying involves acts such as:
  - Threats of violence
  - Extortion
  - Obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages
  - Harassment, stalking, or hate crimes
  - Child pornography

Information provided by: **US Department of Health and Human Services**

**I.C.E. : In Case of an Emergency**

What if...

- You're in a car accident rendered unconscious?
- You're at the mall or work and became incapacitated?



Put ICE in your cell phone and make it easier for emergency personnel to contact loved ones.

Make a new entry with the word "ICE" followed by the name of the person you want called in emergency situations (examples: ICE-Dave, ICE-Mom). For more than one contact name use ICE 1-Dave, ICE2-Mom or ICE1, ICE2, etc.).

**Upcoming Events**

March

- March 6 Baucom Family Fitness marathon final leg
- March 26 & 31 Olive Chapel Family Fitness marathon final leg
- March 28 Fun Festival at Hope Chapel

April

- April 3 6th Grade Truck Fair at Salem Middle School
- April 4 Car Seat Safety Check at Saturn of Cary from 10a-1p
- April 18 Shred Day at Apex Police Department
- April 29 Triangle Super Slam Dunk Contest at Apex HS
- April 30 Safe Kids Safety Seat Check at Wake Med Raleigh

May

- May 2 Peak Festival—downtown Apex
- May 16 Apex Community Safety Event at Apex Fire Station on Hunter street

