

The Richardson Police Department has started a new program to fight burglary and theft.

Our new **Property Marking Program** is designed to increase the chances of recovering stolen property and put those responsible in jail. In 2009, The Richardson Police Department recovered/impounded 21,602 items. 6,415 items were tracked/released. 70% of stolen property is untraceable. The reason is simple, no serial numbers were provided. The majority of burglaries occur without a witness, which means no suspects. The traceability of items are key to the success of the investigation and prosecution of a burglary.

By using a free, easy and secure online property inventory website called **Know Your Stuff**, developed by the *Insurance Information Institute*, you can store images and serial numbers as well as other valuable details about the items you own. This inventory can be a great asset for you, the Police and your insurance company in the event of a loss. You will have a central storage location, online and off-site, to retrieve the information needed when reporting a theft or burglary. You will be able to provide the Police department with a detailed list of serial numbers and item information needed to enter the property into a national law enforcement database (NCIC) that is used to track stolen items. If someone is found in possession of a reported stolen item, an arrest may be made and the property returned to the owner.

The Richardson Police Department has a group of trained Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) that can assist you with this process at several levels. Our service can help you collect the information needed for the inventory, including photographing each item, setup a free account on the Know Your Stuff website and enter the information into the database. You maintain control of the account, the Police Department will not have any access to your information. Our VIPS can assist with you with all of these tasks or just the one or two that you feel may be needed. The website is free and available for anyone to use. The service provided by the Richardson Police Department is available to Richardson residents only.

To find out more, download our brochure and access additional links to Know Your Stuff and the Insurance Information Institute, visit our Property Marking Program webpage at:

<http://www.cor.net/PDPRevention.aspx?id=12238>

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