



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
KEEPING SA SAFE



## IS YOUR FARM SECURE?

A security assessment for rural properties



Government  
of South Australia

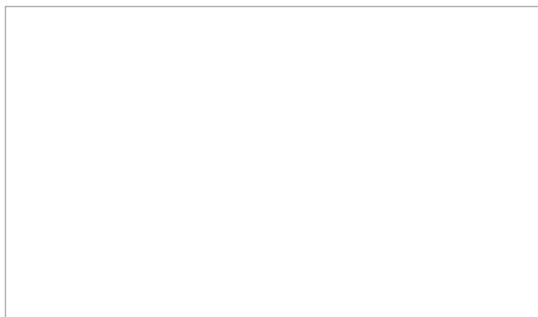
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### CENTRE LIFTOUT

SAPOL Rural Security Assessment

For further crime prevention assistance, please contact your local SAPOL Crime Prevention Section.



Dear Farm Owner,

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) State Crime Prevention Branch is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and do business.

This book has been developed to provide you with practical tips to improve the security of your rural property.

In the interest of preventing crime against rural properties, we encourage you to:

- read this book and share the information with your neighbours and friends
- take the time to complete the Rural Security Assessment and where possible, apply the recommendations.

The State Crime Prevention Branch hope that you find the enclosed information useful in making appropriate changes to improve the security and safety of your property, and that this will help you feel safer in your home.

For further assistance please contact your Local Service Area Crime Prevention Section or visit [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)

**State Crime Prevention Branch**





## RURAL SECURITY

Please answer each question in the Rural Security Assessment. If you answer 'No' to any of the questions we suggest you apply the following recommendations to improve the security of your rural property.

### RURAL PROPERTY ADDRESS (RPA) NUMBER / PROPERTY NAME

- The RPA number and property name should be prominently displayed at the front of your property.
- Consider painting the RPA number or Global Positioning System (GPS) reading on boundary fence posts to assist emergency services and others to locate the property in emergency situations.

### FENCES & GATES

- Fences define the property boundaries and restrict access to the property. Regularly check the condition of the boundary fences and gates. Pay attention to slack wiring and investigate the cause. Repair damaged fences as soon as possible. Contact the police if the fences appear to have been deliberately cut or tampered with.
- Mount gates at entrances to the property and other high risk areas securely to strong posts, and lock with heavy duty chains and padlocks when not in use.
- Gates should be engraved or permanently marked with a piece of information that is unique to you. Fencing materials should be securely locked away when not in use.
- All gates should be kept locked and closed. Use good quality locks.

### WARNING SIGNS

- Warning signs should be displayed on perimeter fence lines and gates to clearly indicate the boundaries of your property to illegal hunters/shooters, intruders and others. Signs such as "Private Property, No Trespassing", "Please Shut the Gate, No Trespassing" and "No Hunting Without Permission" may assist in the prosecution of trespassers if detected.
- Consider displaying warning signs on internal gates and other structures such as sheds within your property, for example "Beware of the Dog" and "Monitored by Security Alarms". Be careful using warning signs that suggest a security response that does not exist as thieves often look for cues to confirm if these really do exist.

### LANDSCAPING

- Trees and shrubs around the home and sheds should be trimmed to reduce hiding places and to increase visibility to and from the main residence.
- Overhanging branches should be trimmed to prevent people using them to access other parts of the home, eg using a tree to get on the roof or an upper level of the home.

### LIGHTING

- Security lighting should be installed around the home and sheds.
- Consider installing sensor style lights which activate automatically when movement is within range.
- Consider using light timers to automatically turn lights on or off when not at home.

### POWER BOARD & LETTERBOX

- The power board should be housed within a secure, solidly made cabinet to restrict tampering with the power supply.
- The cabinet should be secured with a lock approved by your electricity authority.
- The mailbox should be of solid construction and secured with an approved lock to restrict unauthorised access and theft.

### INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEM

- An alarm system may enhance the security of the home. Research has shown that monitored alarm systems are more effective as they alert you or your security company of intruders.
- The alarm system should be manufactured and installed to Australian Standards.
- The system should be designed to provide maximum coverage of the home, garage and storage facilities.
- Remember to regularly check the battery and test the system.

### DOORS

- External doors and frames should be of solid construction.
- Doors should be fitted with quality locks, which comply with the Building Code of Australia (Fire Regulations) and Australian Standard.
- Consider having a peephole (door viewer) installed in the front door of your home to monitor people at the door.
- Spare keys should not be hidden outside the home but left with trusted friends or neighbours.
- When absent from your property remove the keys to your doors and window locks, as thieves may use them to gain entry to your home.
- Consider installing metal security/screen doors. These should be designed and installed to Australian Standards.
- Consider installing patio bolts on sliding doors.
- Access points under the home should be secured.

## WINDOWS

- External windows and frames should be of solid construction.
- Window frames should be anchored to the building to prevent easy removal.
- Windows should be fitted with quality locks and kept locked when not in use.
- Some styles of windows can be locked in a partially open position. Further advice on these items can be obtained from your insurance company or locksmith.
- Skylights should be kept locked, particularly at night.
- Glass doors and windows should be re-inforced to restrict unauthorised access through these areas.
- The existing glass can be re-inforced internally with a shatter resistant adhesive film or replaced with laminated glass.
- Consider installing metal security grilles or shutters on windows (caution: these can trap occupants in an emergency such as a fire if not properly installed).

## VALUABLES CONTROL (KEYS, COMPUTERS & SAFES)

- Where possible, secure computers to desk surfaces and permanently mark or engrave the hardware with an identification number unique to you. Back up files on discs and protect these from theft, fire, flood or PC failure by storing in a secure location.
- Try to limit the amount of cash kept at home as it is often targeted by thieves and is often not covered by insurance.
- Jewellery, cash and other valuables should be out of sight.
- Consider installing a safe to securely store jewellery, cash and other valuable documents.
- The safe should be well concealed, fixed to the floor or embedded in foundations.
- The safe should not be left open for convenience. The key to the safe should be stored out of sight in a separate room.
- Try to avoid leaving the property unattended at the same times and on the same days each week.



## SAFE KEEPING OF FIREARMS

- You must hold a current Firearms Licence issued by the South Australia Police Firearms Branch to use, own or possess a firearm in South Australia. As a firearms owner you are required to familiarise yourself with the Firearms Act 1977 and the Firearms Regulations 2008, and ensure that all firearms and ammunition are secured according to the Regulations. When the firearms are not secured as required by the Regulations you must “take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm or ammunition is not lost or stolen or does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person”.
- All firearms must be registered with the South Australia Police Firearms Registry. As the holder of the licence, you must allow, at any reasonable time, a police officer to enter and inspect the place at which the firearms are kept to ensure they are secured as stated on the registration. If you plan to change where a firearm is kept, you must advise the Registrar with prior written notice as to the changes in the place and manner in which it is secured.
- It is recommended all firearms are kept in a steel safe with a three point locking mechanism, secured to a permanent building’s wall or floor. Other options include a locked steel or concrete strong room, or other method approved by the Branch. Ammunition must be similarly secured, separate from the firearms. It is important to ensure both the firearm and ammunition are locked away when not in use.
- South Australia Police recommend all firearms are transported and stored safely by ensuring the firearms are not loaded and temporarily incapable of firing (remove the bolt, magazine and check the chamber is empty prior to storage or relocation). Firearms should be transported ‘out of sight’ and where possible attached to the vehicle.

#### TELEPHONES

- Pre-program the emergency number Triple Zero (000) into your phone speed dial function.
- Details of emergency telephone numbers such as the local Country Fire Service, SES and your local police station should be kept close to the phone.

#### PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

- Mark your property with your driver's licence number, prefixed by the letter 'S' for South Australia, e.g. S123456.
- For items that cannot be engraved e.g. ceramics, antiques, etc. mark with a UV pen.
- Photograph jewellery with a ruler beside it to give an indication of the actual size.
- Record all details on the property checklist at the rear of this assessment and keep it in a safe place.

#### SHEDS, GARAGES & OTHER STORAGE FACILITIES

- Sheds, garages and other storage facilities should be built within sight of the home or a trusted neighbour's home.
- Sheds, garages and other storage facilities should be constructed from strong materials with heavy-duty roller doors, shutters or metal gates that can be locked when not in use.
- Use good quality chains and padlocks to secure entrances and consider fitting additional locks (i.e. hasps, staples) to the doors and windows.
- Security lighting should be installed around sheds, garages and other storage facilities. Consider mounting spot or floodlights around the structures.
- Tools, equipment and ladders should be locked away to prevent them from being stolen or used to gain access to the home, sheds, garages or other storage facilities.
- Storage areas should be clean and well organised so that any theft is noticed as soon as possible.

#### FARM MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

- Machinery, tools and equipment, including any removable parts, should be engraved or permanently marked in at least two places. Ideally, use an engraver or welder to mark large items with some form of information that identifies you as the owner, and to ensure the marking can be recognised even if offenders attempt to grind it off.
- Machinery, tools and other valuable farm equipment should be stored in the same secured area, preferably a locked shed or fenced enclosure that can be padlocked.
- At times it may be necessary to leave machinery out in the paddock. Position the equipment where it can be seen from the home and out of sight of public areas.
- Equipment should be secured with heavy chains and case hardened locks (i.e. chain and lock equipment to trees or other strongly anchored objects, chain wheels to axles; chain steering wheel to frame).
- Keys should be removed and cab doors locked.
- Lockable fuel caps should be used to prevent theft or contamination of fuel.
- Consider disabling the equipment by removing the distributor cap, battery or rotor.
- When practical, remove hitches from trailers.
- Tools or other equipment should not be left unsecured in the cab or tray of vehicles.

#### SHEARING SHEDS

- Handpieces, combs and cutters, wool packs, stencils, earmark pliers, ear-tags, paint brands and other valuable expert equipment should be regularly accounted for and locked away when not in use.
- Wool bales should be securely stored in a locked storage area.
- Details such as model and serial numbers of all shearing shed expert equipment including grinders and wool presses should be recorded in an inventory of all farm equipment.
- All external doors, windows and chutes should be designed so they can be locked.
- Use a reputable shearing contractor and carrier.

#### GRAIN, HAY & SEED

- Grain, hay and seed should be stored in locked silos, bins or sheds.
- Ensure storage areas are well lit.
- Loading equipment should be padlocked when not in use.
- Silos and other storage should be located in a high visibility area preferably within sight of the main residence or neighbour's residence.
- Don't leave trucks with grain standing overnight in paddocks. It is better to have them stored close to the main sheds and house.
- Ideally, have a weighbridge on your farm to weigh trucks before they leave your property.

#### WATER

- Tanks should be dipped regularly to monitor water usage. Use enclosed tanks to protect water from being contaminated and lock taps and outlets to restrict unauthorised access to water.
- Irrigation pumps should be bolted to a concrete floor and enclosed in a secure, ventilated structure such as a locked pump house or welded steel cage.
- Portable pumps should be chained to a tree or other fixed object.

#### STOCKYARDS & LOADING RAMPS

- Stockyard gates and loading ramps should be padlocked to prevent others from using them without permission.
- Stockyards should be built in sight of the home and other storage sheds, rather than in remote locations or fronting onto roads and laneways.

#### TIMBER

- Valuable trees should be identified and marked with paint.
- Maintain a written or computerised record of valuable trees.
- Inform neighbours when someone will be harvesting timber on the property.
- Investigate unexplained chainsaw noises.





#### CHEMICALS, FERTILISERS, EXPLOSIVES & SECURING SENSITIVE, DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

- Store chemicals and fertiliser in a separate locked storage area. Maintain an inventory of chemicals.
- Each state has enacted legislation to regulate the use, manufacture, transport, storage and handling of explosives, explosive precursors and other related dangerous goods. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has reviewed all hazardous substances and South Australia has amended the following legislation and regulations to comply with the review: Explosives (Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2004; Explosives Act 1936; and Dangerous Substances Act 1979.
- All fertilisers containing more than 45% ammonium nitrate (AN) have been designated Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) and a Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances (SSDS). Primary producers must now apply to SafeWork SA to obtain a licence to use, possess or store these fertilisers. South Australia continues to prohibit the transportation of these fertilisers.
- Producers are also required to develop a Site Security Plan for agricultural use of SSDS. The security plan must contain details of the facilities, system and procedures in place for the safe and secure handling of SSDS. A security plan is also required if you are storing explosives. All information for licencing and developing plans is available at [www.safework.sa.gov.au/show\\_page.jsp?id=4199](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=4199).
- South Australia Police strongly recommend you contact SafeWork SA for advice on authorisations and storage standards for all hazardous materials including SSAN and explosives. As a guide:
  - SSAN and SSDS should be stored in a physically secure place (locked or under constant surveillance), and there should be procedures in place to control access; to secure the control of keys; and to document the receiving and dispatching of SSAN and SSDS.
  - Dedicated storage areas should be kept locked to prevent unauthorised access.

- Fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides should be stored in their original containers away from heat and exterior walls separate to animal health products, stock feed, fuel and private dwellings.
- Reduce the quantity of chemicals stored, and comply with the manufacturers' specifications (i.e. storage/usage times).
- Maintain a full inventory of all chemicals kept on the farm including the product name; manufacturer name; a description of the container/s; formulation type; quantities, expiry dates and values (keep invoices and receipts of all purchases).
- Permanently mark chemical containers with your name or other information unique to you.
- Post warning signs on storage facilities identifying the class of dangerous goods.
- Report any loss, theft, attempted theft, sabotage or any other security incident to the police and SafeWork SA.
- Notify police if someone tries to sell you agricultural chemicals at prices under the normal market value.

#### LIVESTOCK & DOGS

- All livestock should be marked with approved permanent identifiers such as earmarks, brands, tattoos and National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) devices upon receipt or as soon after birth as practicable. Contact Biosecurity SA for advice on registering brands and earmarks on 1800 654 688.
- All cattle must be identified with an approved permanent identifier (NLIS device) before leaving any property or before entering South Australia from another state and be accompanied by a correctly completed movement document. Producers should check that all NLIS devices are still present before each movement commences and replace any that are lost. In addition, all movements of cattle, including those between properties with a different Property Identification Code (PIC), must be individually recorded on the NLIS Database ([www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au)).
- All sheep and goats must be identified with an approved permanent identifier (NLIS ear tag) before leaving the property of birth or dispatch and must be accompanied by a correctly completed movement document. Relevant information about the movements of sheep and goats must be recorded and retained for seven years by the person who consigned the stock and by the person who has bought or received the stock. In addition all movements of sheep and goats must be recorded as a mob-based movement on the NLIS database.
- Cattle, sheep, and goats must be accompanied by an approved movement document when transported by vehicle (road, rail, water or air) from their current location to another. The National Vendor Declaration (NVD) is the preferred document, but there are alternative movement waybills available on the PIRSA website that are suitable for non-transaction type movements in particular.
- Missing NLIS devices should be reported to police as soon as possible. Missing cattle can be recorded on the NLIS database, contact 1800 654 743 for advice on how to do this.
- Livestock should be regularly checked to ensure that suspected losses are recognised and reported to police as soon as possible.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of individual stock identification numbers and stock totals including purchases, sales, deaths and rations.
- Valuable stock should be photographed or videoed.
- Stock should not be left in yards or holding paddocks adjacent to stockyards unless they are in sight of the home.
- Stock handling facilities (yards and race) should be kept locked and regularly checked for signs of unexplained activity (damaged gates, fresh manure and hoof marks).
- Dogs are aware, often before their owners, of the presence of strangers around the farm residence and nearby buildings. Regardless of whether dogs are kept as working animals or as pets, they may act as a deterrent to intruders. (University of New England Institute for Rural Futures 2000).

## FUEL

- Above ground fuel storage tanks should be positioned in sight of the main residence and other storage sheds. Tanks should be concealed from view from the road, or alternatively, consider installing underground tanks.
- Consider installing security lighting that illuminates the tank/s and surrounding areas at night, and enclose the site with a security fence/gate that can be locked.
- Fuel tanks should be dipped daily and a flow meter installed to monitor fuel usage.
- The dispensing system including the pump outlets, nozzle, hose and valves should be locked when not in use.
- The control switch to electronically controlled pumps should be located in a secure building and the electricity turned off when not in use. Also consider installing an isolation switch in a hidden spot to immobilise the circuit.
- Mobile fuel tanks should only be filled when they are in use. Shield the hose and secure with a cable lock hardened to reduce siphoning or vandalism opportunities.
- Fuel trailers should be parked away from the roadside when left unattended in a paddock. Trailer wheels should be clamped, and the body chained and padlocked to a large tree or other firmly anchored object.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of fuel usage and purchases, including quantities, delivery dates and times.
- Tanks, vehicles and machinery should be fitted with lockable fuel caps to deter access or contamination.
- Use a reputable fuel supplier and be present when deliveries are made.
- Suspected fuel thefts should be reported to police.



## CONCLUSION

By completing this assessment and implementing suggested treatments you are helping to reduce the opportunity of crime. SAPOL encourages you to obtain your own independent advice as to the safety and security of your property. Should you require further information on the subjects listed in this assessment, please contact the SAPOL Crime Prevention Section at your nearest police station.

SAPOL would like to thank you for your interest in improving the security of your property and in preventing crime in our community.

## PROPERTY RECORD

Please complete the Property Record overleaf.

- List all relevant details of household and farm valuables.
- Please include any dents, scratches or identifying individual marks.
- Police can identify property marked with a driver's licence number as long as the licence address details are current.
- Keep the list in a safe place and leave a copy with a relative or friend.





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