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Cops enumerate lonely elders for special care

CHENNAI: In the wake of elderly people living alone in the city falling an easy prey to anti-social elements, the Greater Chennai City Police have decided to keep watch on them and as a first step, are in the process of identifying those living alone.

Police said they had made out a list of senior citizens living in the city from the voters' list compiled by the Chennai Corporation. Making a list of citizens aged 60 and above, they had been further classified area-wise and the list had been sent to all police stations. "Those above 60 are easy targets as they won't be able to defend themselves or move about freely," said a police official.

The beat constables at all police stations in the city had been instructed to visit the houses of the senior citizens living in their respective jurisdictions. Police sources said the step had been taken following the instructions of the city police commissioner, after cases of senior citizens being targeted were reported in the city — the murder of a sexagenarian at Kodambakkam and two septuagenarian sisters at West Mambalam. With the list of the elderly being narrowed down to those living alone, police said that women receptionists employed in police stations would keep a check on them by calling them on the phone and inquiring about their safety, besides making a note of suspicious movements in the locality. "I visited a few of them already and asked them to call us if they need any assistance. "The receptionists too will give them safety tips while speaking to them," said a police official.