



# BEAT THE BURGLAR



Brought to you by Chief Leonard F. Moty

with information from The CA Attorney General's Office & "The Crime Doctor" Chris E. McGoey



## Motivating Factors

*Get Inside the Criminal Mind*

For most thieves, the choice to commit a crime is a risk vs. reward decision. The risk of committing the crime is the likelihood of getting caught and losing their freedom. The reward is the perceived benefit obtained upon successful completion of the crime.

Many burglars commit crime like you or I shop. They like looking at the various items available to steal. They have a choice where and when they will commit a crime. If the thieves don't like what they see, they will go somewhere else.

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## What Can You Do?

*Tips Everyone Can Use*

Your home is your castle. You've worked hard to get your business up and running. You've installed a burglar alarm. Here's more you can do:

For Everyone:

- ◆ Identify your valuables by engraving your driver's license number on them. Take photos of smaller items. Obtain the serial numbers of all valuables, and store the information in a safety deposit box or with a relative (not on the hard drive of the computer that may end up stolen).
- ◆ Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other documents. Keep the copy somewhere safe.
- ◆ *Clearly* display your street address for emergency personnel to locate your home quickly. This means make sure it's visible at night, or when someone may be in a hurry to find your home. If we can't find you, we can't help you.
- ◆ Change door locks when moving into a new location. Don't assume that you have all of the existing keys.
- ◆ File off the stamped key number on the bottom of padlock casings so no one can duplicate keys.

At Home:

- ◆ Store valuables in inconspicuous hiding places. Do not keep them in your dresser, between the mattresses, or in the cookie jar.
- ◆ Do not keep large sums of money in your house. Period.

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Property crimes are usually one of *stealth*, where the criminal does not want a confrontation or to be identified (though the burglar will often become violent if the opportunity presents itself, or if he/she is surprised, cornered, or captured).

Studies show that most property criminals live nearby their target areas and are familiar with the neighborhood. It is a *comfort* factor for them to know the terrain and all the potential escape routes. They will usually work the property on foot, unless they need a vehicle to transport the stolen merchandise. Sometimes the property criminal will have lived in the area or will have a friend who is a current resident.

Most burglars work alone and tend to probe a neighborhood looking for the right residence and the right opportunity. Burglaries occur when there are obvious signs that no one is home. Most criminals are looking for things that are small, expensive, and can easily be converted to cash. Items like money, blank checks & account details, jewelry, guns, watches, laptop computers, and other small electronic devices are high on the list.

Home invasion robbers, in contrast, work more often at nights and on weekends when residences are more likely to be occupied. Many home robbers have been in the home before as a delivery person, installer or repairman. Home invaders will sometimes use a ruse or impersonation to get you to open the door. They believe that they won't have to overcome alarm systems when the home is occupied. They have been known to pretend to be delivering a package, or lie about having had an accident involving your parked car. Once the door is opened for them, the home invaders will use an explosive amount of force and threats to gain control of the home and produce fear in the victims. Once the occupants are under control the robbers will begin to collect their valuables. ★

## When You've Been Burglarized

Whether you're arriving home from vacation or showing up to work on Monday, no one expects to find that someone has violated their security. If this happens to you, there are a few things that you need to remember:

- ◆ **Don't investigate things yourself!** Don't go inside. You have no way to tell if anyone is still inside. Burglars have been known to hide "until the coast is clear."
- ◆ **Call the police,** using the non-emergency number (in Redding, call 225-4564). If you're using your cell phone, don't call from the scene. Place the call from somewhere down the street, or go use a neighbor's phone.
- ◆ **Don't let anyone inside.** Letting people look around can disturb the scene and destroy evidence. ★



## HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

The checklist below will assist you in systematically surveying your property. Every "No" answer indicates a weak point in your security. Complying with these suggestions won't guarantee that a burglar won't get in, but it will improve your protection.

1. **IS THE LANDSCAPING TRIMMED TO ELIMINATE HIDING SPACES?**
2. **ARE LIGHTS INSTALLED AROUND THE PERIMETER?**
3. **ARE ALL EXTERIOR DOORS MADE OF SOLID CORE CONSTRUCTION?**
4. **CAN ALL OF YOUR DOORS BE SECURELY LOCKED WITH DEADBOLT LOCKS? ARE THE LOCKS USED?**
5. **DO YOU LOCK YOUR CAR AND REMOVE THE KEYS EVEN WHEN IT'S IN YOUR GARAGE OR DRIVEWAY?**
6. **ARE YOUR WINDOWS LOCKED WHEN THEY'RE SHUT?**
7. **ARE YOU AS CAREFUL WITH BASEMENT OR SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS AS YOU ARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR?**
8. **HAVE YOU MADE CERTAIN THAT ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE SECURELY MOUNTED AND CANNOT BE REMOVED?**
9. **HAVE YOU MADE ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT YOU NO LONGER NEED A HIDDEN KEY?**
10. **DO YOU HAVE AN ADDITIONAL LOCK ON YOUR SLIDING DOORS AND WINDOWS (OTHER THAN A DOWEL ROD IN THE TRACK)?**

Keep in mind that if you can find a way in when you've locked yourself out, a burglar can find a way in whenever he wants. [For more information, or to schedule a free in-home security survey](#) by our Crime Prevention Specialists, call our Crime Prevention Unit at (530) 225-4540 or 225-4209.★

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- ◆ Always lock your car and park in front of the garage. Do not leave the garage door opener or personal items in your unlocked car.
- ◆ Always close and lock garage doors, even while you're home.
- ◆ Create an occupied, lived-in appearance in your home when you're away. Buy timers for lights, TV's and radios, and rotate them from time to time.
- ◆ Do not leave notes on your door ("just ran to the store for milk") or messages on your answering machine ("we're not in right now") indicating that you're gone.
- ◆ Move valuable items (purses, checkbooks, cameras, etc.) away from windows so that they cannot be seen by anyone walking by.

### For Business Owners:

- ◆ Make sure that there is no easy access to your roof. This includes moving dumpsters and securing ladders elsewhere.
- ◆ Empty cash drawers upon closing and leave them open to show that there's nothing there.
- ◆ Keep an up-to-date inventory of equipment and merchandise.
- ◆ Keep shelving and displays away from windows – they make great ladders.
- ◆ Put all entrances under surveillance.
- ◆ Lock & restrict access to offices where money and records are kept. ★

### STATISTICS FOR REDDING, CA – 2002

Total Burglaries: 801 reported

#### Sub-divided into categories for:

Burglaries w/Forced Entry: 390  
Burglaries w/Unlawful Entry (no force): 347  
Residential Burglaries: 428  
Commercial Burglaries: 373

Night Burglaries: 337

Daytime Burglaries: 188

Burglaries w/Unknown Time of Occurrence: 276

Attempted Forced Entry (w/out successful entry): 64

Residential Robberies: 11

