



Home Invasion

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

“ Some of these robberies occurred in neighborhoods where families live and where children play outside - **places where decent people have every right to expect to be safe and free from this type of violent behavior.** ”

U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin
January 29, 2014



WHY ARE HOME Invasions Occurring?

The family home has become a robber's preferred target. Knowing why can help you be prepared.

Think about the tried-and-true burglary targets for robbers. They have always been convenience stores and fast-food restaurants which are well-stocked with cash and goods. What has changed? These establishments have become increasingly more sophisticated in thwarting robbery. They have a reduced amount of cash on-hand and have hardened themselves against criminal attack by installing affordable video surveillance systems, silent alarms, and other anti-crime devices. A residence, by comparison, has become a more attractive choice. It is usually not well-protected and once the home invaders gain access, a home offers them a great deal of privacy to achieve their goal. The home invaders do not have to anticipate the police suddenly driving up or customers walking in. The home invaders' victims become the innocent, unsuspecting, unprepared homeowners.



ARE HOME INVASIONS **On The Rise?**

The question has yet to be answered by traditional statistics, yet we hear about home invasions regularly and law enforcement provides advice on how to help protect ourselves against them.

We hear about them every day. Home invasions are often the lead story on TV news and social media gives evidence of them as individuals share information and neighborhood websites warn communities. It is not possible to track comprehensive statistics on home invasion in the United States. Often, police departments as well as the FBI, will record it as a burglary, robbery or assault. While this may hinder the development of a widespread plan of action to control or reduce home invasion, it should not reduce our own vigilance in preventing it or being prepared for it.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A Home Invasion?

- Entry is forced and/or unauthorized (except in some drug-related robberies).
- The offender seeks confrontation - the intent is to rob.
- The confrontation occurs inside a dwelling.
- The offender uses violence and/or the threat of violence.
- The offender demands, and takes, money and/or property.
- Home invasion robbers usually rob in groups, which sometimes are well-organized and specialize in home invasions.
- Weapon use is common by offenders (e.g., firearms, knives, striking instruments).
- The greatest violence usually occurs during the initial 60 seconds of the confrontation and home invaders often come prepared with handcuffs, rope, duct tape and firearms.
- Home invaders will try to increase their escape time by disabling the phones and sometimes will leave their victims bound or incapacitated.

Unlike traditional burglars, home invasion robbers work more often at night and on weekends when homes are more likely to be occupied. The home invader will sometimes target the resident as well as the dwelling.

BE ALERT TO THE WAYS THAT A Home Invasion Can Start

Home invasion robbers may trick you into opening your door by:

- Simply ringing the doorbell
- Knocking at the door
- Pretending to deliver a package or flowers
- Creating attention-getting noises outside your door
- Lying about a car accident and saying they need help

While the front door is a common point of entry, back doors and windows are also used.

Protect Yourself

Doors, Windows, Garages – Always Keep them Locked

All exterior doors should be solid-core with heavy-duty deadbolt locks and hardware. Peepholes should be installed and utilized prior to opening the door to anyone. Or, install a wide-angle door viewer that permits you to look outside before opening the door. Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors. Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws on windows.

Answer the Door with Caution

When there is someone at your door, call out, "I'll get it!" This gives the impression that you are not alone in the house. Speak to all visitors through the locked door. Demand identification from anyone you do not know. Verify it by calling that place of business or the person's employer. Do not ask the person for the phone number; they may have an accomplice answering the phone. Do not open the door until you are satisfied that it is safe to do so. If you cannot verify their identity, keep the door closed and locked. Press the emergency button on your monitored security system or call 9-1-1 if you feel uncomfortable with the situation.

Eliminate Vulnerabilities

Use motion sensor lights near or around key entry points. Trim shrubs to a height of three feet and tree canopies up to a height of eight feet. Keep ladders out of sight.

Have an Escape Plan

Train family members on where to go and what to say. This plan should include your children. If someone can escape, the invaders will have lost the advantage of privacy and time. Some homeowners build "safe rooms" to allow them to retreat or escape the violence while giving them valuable time to call the police.

Stay Calm

Never stop thinking if you are held captive. Keep a cool head and take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. Do not scream, yell out, cry or attempt any violent confrontation. Do exactly as you are told, nothing more and nothing less. Remember, your life is more valuable than your property. Never follow the intruder from the scene.

Take Action....

INSTALL A MONITORED SECURITY SYSTEM

- A Temple University study found that residences without alarm systems are approximately three times more likely to be burglarized than residences with alarm systems. Yard signs and window stickers indicate the presence of a security system and help to serve as a deterrent to would-be intruders.
- A Guardian Protection security system can be armed while you are enjoying activities within your home. When an armed perimeter door or window is opened, the system will send a signal to the monitoring center that an opening has occurred. Guardian can notify the police to be dispatched to your home without you having to call 911.
- Worried about an elderly person at home alone? Use your Internet-connected smartphone, tablet or computer to arm Guardian's interactive security system and rest assured your loved one has Guardian's Central Station Monitoring system, even when you can't be there.
- Keep Guardian's pendant or keyfob panic button handy when you are in your home. Pressing it will send a silent emergency signal to the monitoring center and Guardian can notify authorities for help.





While providing home and business security systems to more than a quarter-million clients in the U.S., Guardian Protection partners with communities by offering free educational safety brochures, child fingerprinting events and crime watch signs. Founded in 1950, Guardian is a U.S. top-ten-ranked security systems firm and was named security Dealer of the Year by respected industry journal SDM in 1999 and 2013.

For more information on home security call: 1.800.PROTECT (1.800.776.8328)

For more information on our community partnership programs,
please contact community@guardianprotection.com

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