

Home Security

The 'CRIME EQUATION'

A criminal must have THREE (3) elements present before he/she will attempt to commit a crime and succeed without being caught:

1) Desire, 2) Skill/Ability, and 3) Opportunity.

The criminal's desire, skill and/or ability are something to which he/she will have control. To decrease the chance of becoming a victim, we must take away the criminal's opportunity to succeed without being caught. How do we accomplish this? Easy, we remove the factors to which we have control. It's simple math, let's take a look. Every crime has three factors that are added together . . .

Suspect + Victim + Location = Crime

Being that the suspect controls the desire, skill and/or ability we recognize that as a 'given.' The variables that come into effect are whether or not the suspect sees the victim as and the location as an "Easy Target." Thereby, allowing for the *opportunity*.

YOU! CAN CONTROL THE OUTCOME!

Make it difficult, time consuming, visible and noisy for an intruder to enter your house.

Here are some prevention tips you can follow as a guide to "Stacking the Deck Against Home Invasion" and 'Reducing the Risks' of your home being the next target:

HOME AND COMMUNITY:

- Adequate lighting—All entrances, driveways, etc. Motion detector lights are good deterrents (keep extra bulbs, flashlights and batteries).
- Leave lights on when going out at night; use timer lights when away for an extended period.
- Street address numbers should be large, clear of obstruction, & well light so emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Maintain good locks on all exterior doors (including basement/garage door).
- Deadbolt with at least 1 ½ inch throw
- Thumb latches and keys in deadbolts should not be accessible from the outside through glass next to door. (use the 40" rule).
- Good locks are useless on weak doors. Need solid core or metal door (use long screws-3-4 inches into frame).
- Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Sliding windows and doors: rod in tracks; special locks; pins through frame
- Chain locks are for privacy not security.
- Peepholes – 190 degree-angle. USE Peephole.... to see who is at the door.... be careful about children answering door.
- Keep doors/windows locked. Windows should have secure locks or pins for both closed and partially opened positions. Curtains and blinds should be used for privacy.

- Keep garage doors shut and locked. Door from garage to interior of house should be locked also.
- Trim shrubbery to maintain visibility. Landscaping should not allow easy access to windows, doors or upper levels. Secure ladders and other devices that allow for upper level access from outside.
- ALARMS Systems are good deterrents. Use warning stickers/signs that come with the alarm. Consider a home alarm system that provides monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies. Over-the-counter alarms are good deterrents also. Research what is best for your home.
- Give the impression that someone is home and that there is more than one of you. Dogs are considered warning devices.
- When you find something unusual at your house upon returning home, go to the nearest and securest phone, call the police and wait for them there.
- Don't imply you live alone by answering machine, name in phone book, mailbox, door, etc.
- Always respond to doorbells/telephone.
- Don't open door until you know who is there - use the peephole.
- Don't leave notes on the door when going out.
- Vary your daily routine. At night, draw your blinds or draperies.
- Be careful about giving out information over the phone, the mail, or Internet.
- Verify the identity of repairmen; if you are the least bit worried call the company-"if it don't feel right, it probably ain't right."
- Don't let strangers use your phone, call for them.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR:

- Keep names/phone numbers of neighbors by the phone.
- Learn your neighbor's schedule and vehicles.
- Watch for strange persons/vehicles; door-to-door sales people.
- Call 911 for anything suspicious.
- Keep updated list of valuables (photos or video tape), including serial (or owner applied) numbers, and keep in secure location.
- If you don't have some kind of organized watch group in your neighborhood, help set up one.