



# BEAT THE BURGLAR



Brought to you by the Redding Police Department  
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.

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

Some property criminals live nearby their target areas and are familiar with the neighborhood. Sometimes the criminal will have lived in the area or will have a friend who is a current resident. It can be 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.

Burglars tend to look for the right house 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. ★

## 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 – Dial 911!** 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. ★



## 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 an alarm system. Here's more you can do:

### **For Everyone:**

- ◆ Engrave your driver's license number on valuables, and take photos of them. Obtain serial numbers of all valuables, and store all the information in a safe

place - not on the hard drive of a 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. 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 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.
- ◆ Always lock your car. Do not leave the garage door opener or any valuables in your car – locked or not.
- ◆ Create an occupied appearance in your home. Buy timers for lights, TV's and radios, and rotate them from time to time.
- ◆ Do not leave notes on your door ("ran to the store for milk") indicating that you're gone.

#### **For Business Owners:**

- ◆ Make sure that there is no easy access to your roof. This may include moving dumpsters and ladders.
- ◆ 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. Record all video data so it can be reviewed later.
- ◆ Lock & restrict access to offices where money and records are kept. ★



## STATISTICS FOR REDDING, CA – 2011

**Total Burglaries: 823 reported**

### **Sub-divided into categories for:**

**Burglaries w/Forced Entry: 353**

**Burglaries w/Unlawful Entry (no force): 436**

**Residential Burglaries: 449**

**Commercial Burglaries: 374**

**Night Burglaries: 490**

**Daytime Burglaries: 285**

**Burglaries w/Unknown Time of Occurrence: 48**

**Attempted Forced Entry (w/out successful entry): 34**

**Residential Robberies: 13**

## Stop Crime Ahead of Time

### *Personal Safety Basics*

You may decide to take a walk around the neighborhood, or maybe you're the last one leaving your office at night. If you have an established community watch program in place, the area may be a safer place, but there are more things you can do to make sure you are safe while getting some exercise and fresh air.

Walk with confidence and be extremely aware of your surroundings at all times. Pay attention to anything and anyone around you. Criminals do not want to be seen, especially before they commit a crime, and they will be likely to leave you and your property alone if they realize you have noticed them. This eliminates their ability to use stealth to their advantage.

Make your home and your neighborhood a safe and secure place to be. The police will help during emergency situations, but by following these tips you can help prevent crime from happening near you. ★