

Overland Park Police (KS) Residential Security Initiative



Michael Betten, MS, CPP

Overland Park, KS (Summer 1996)

- 4 Home Invasions
- 4 Sexual Assaults
- Media Coverage
- Town Hall Meeting (700+)
- 200 Residential Security Surveys



911 Home Invasion



Common Recommendations...

- “Can we get some extra patrol by the police department? I don’t ever see the police in our neighborhood”
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch group????
- National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association: “We provide peace of mind through the sales of alarm systems.”
- 3” screws in the strike plate, deadbolt with a tapered cylinder guard, solid door.
- More lighting!
- The 40” rule – Use double cylinder deadbolts near glass on doors.



Side-Lighted Entry Ways:

***1 or 2 Panes of
glass**

***1 to 1 ½” thick
door frame**

***Finger Jointed
Jambs**

SECURITY?

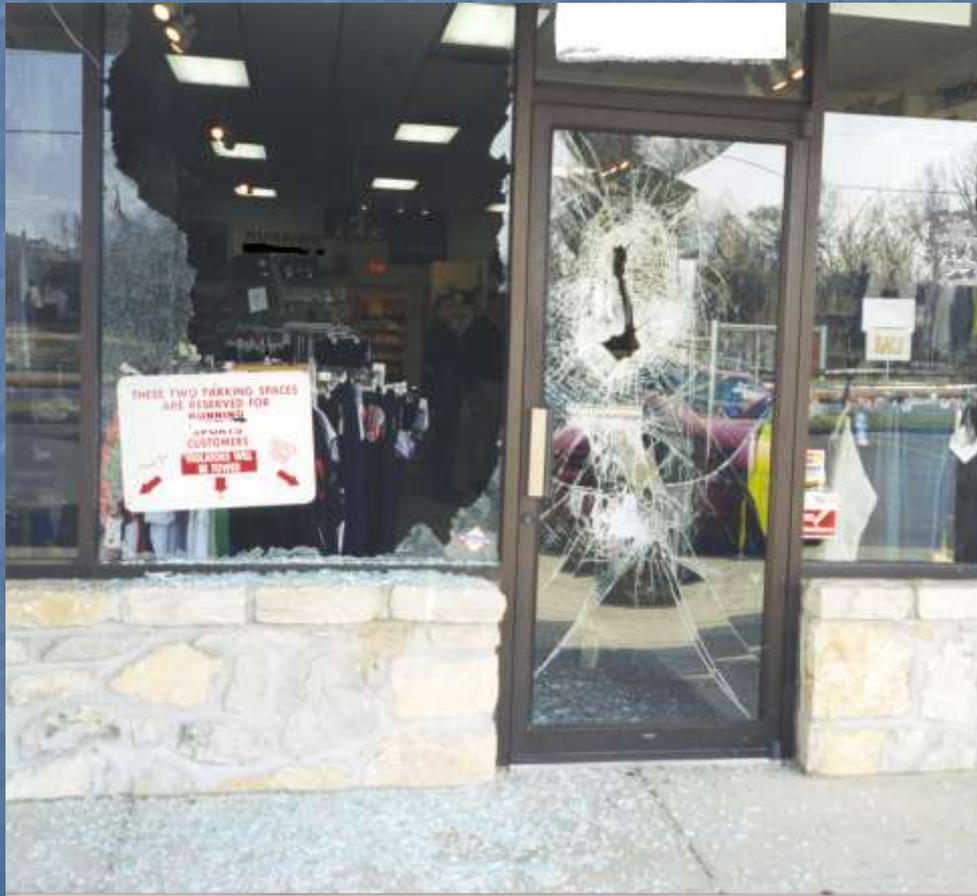


Video Edward Wayne Industries





Basic Security Strategy: 3 D's

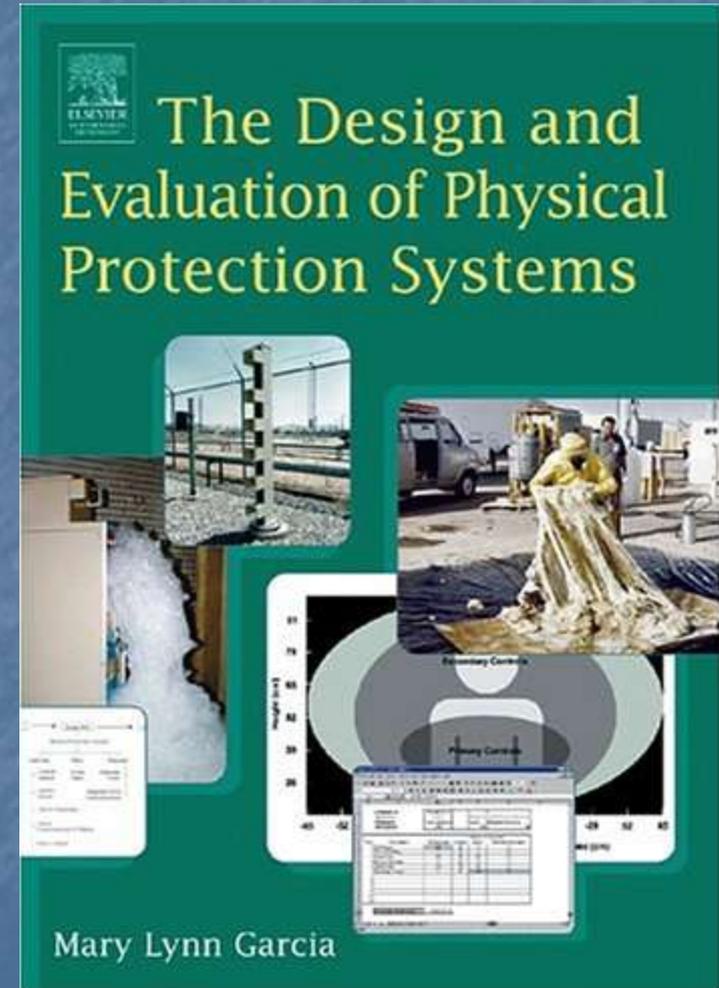


- Deter
- Detect
- Delay
- **Response**

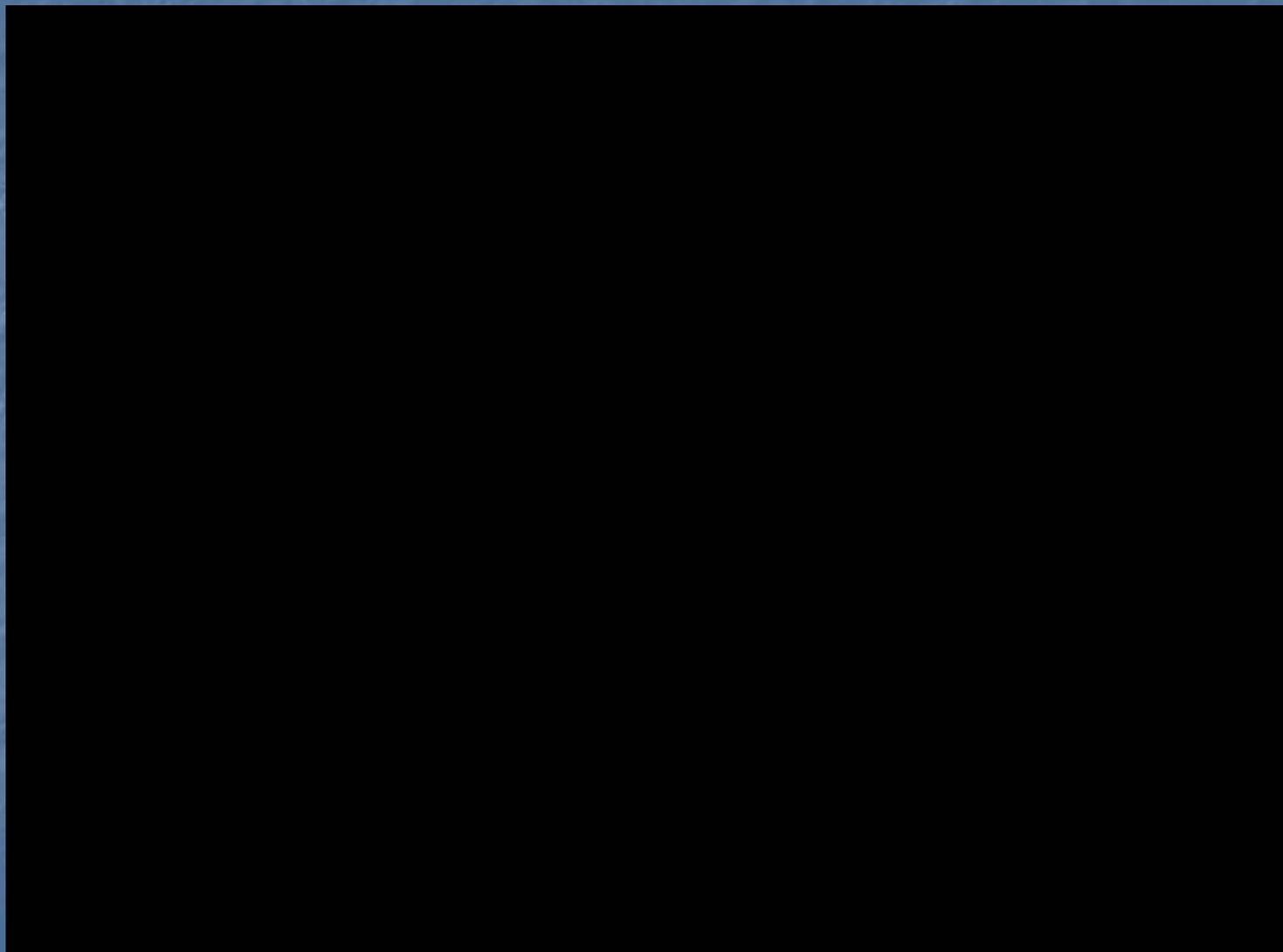
The order is critical and often confused. Some of the components are overlooked.

RESPONSE

The response function consists of the actions taken by the officers to prevent the criminal's success. The response must have a sufficient number of officers arriving at the appropriate location to stop the criminal's progress. It includes the communication to the officers about the criminal's actions. *The measure of officer effectiveness is the time between receipt of a communication of criminal action and the interruption of the criminal's action.* (pp. 57)



Fox 4 News Home Invasion



Burglary: The Burglar's Perspective

By

Paul Cromwell, University of Miami

James Olson, University of Texas-Odessa

D'Aunn W. Avary, Texas Tech University

December 1993

The Burglar's Perspective "Motivation" "

- Support an Expensive "Lifestyle"
- Buy alcohol or drugs
- Pay for shelter, food, etc.

The Burglar's Perspective "Time of Day"

- Time patterns determined by potential victim.
- Most preferred 9-11am to mid-afternoon
- Night: burglars knew house vacant

The Burglar's Perspective "Inside Information"

Many burglars work with inside people.

“I have friends who mow yards for people and work as maids and stuff. When they talk about the people they work for, I keep my ears open. They give me information without knowing it.”

BURGLARS ON THE JOB

Street Life and Residential Break-ins



By

Richard T. Wright

Scott Decker

Deciding to Commit a Burglary

- Disproportionately young, male and poor.
- Overwhelming majority of cases, decision to commit a burglary was a pressing “need” for cash.
- Some cases, *Opportunity* was presented and they seized the moment. “Greed or addicted to money.”
- Keep the “party” going; DRUGS!
- Cash for subsistence; food, shelter, kids.

Why Burglary?

- “legitimate work did not represent a viable solution... wanted cash then and there.”
- Poor paying jobs could not support their desired lifestyle.
- Crime appealed to some because it allowed them to flaunt their independence from the routine imposed by the world of work.
- *“I don’t even want to work 8 hours. I figure I can do maybe only 1 hour and get paid as much as I would if I worked a full day.”*

Why Burglary?

- *"See, if you rob a person, they can identify you cause your looking right at 'em... And armed robbery is what? Five to ten years?"*
- Offender afraid of being hurt by victim or witness. *(Being hurt by what?)*
- Ease to get in. Most cases no tools were necessary. If tools, typically screwdriver, hammer, or small crowbar.

Choosing the Target

- “Illusion of Occupancy” lights on timers, etc. may have limitations!
- Burglars were unwilling to break into a residence without knowing something about the people who lived there and the kinds of things it contained.
- When the need for money arose, they would not simply search for a suitable target and commit a spur-of-the-moment offense.

Choosing the Target

Pre-selecting a target could occur in 3 ways:

- Through knowing the occupants
- Through receiving a tip
- Through observing a potential target

National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (Entry Points)??

- 34% entered through the front door
- 23% entered a first floor window
- 22% entered through a back door
- 9% enter through a garage
- 4% through an unlocked entrance
- 2% through a second story entrance

Study on Post-Incident Maladjustments of Burglary Victims

- **Reports of the National Research Institute of Police Science.**
- **Examined psychological effects of burglary victims: "Psychological Distress."**
- **Females more at risk of "Psyc. Distress" and fear of re-victimization.**
- ***Police advice on crime prevention minimized the fear of re-victimization***

The Emotional and Behavioral Impact of Burglary: A Case Study of Victims in a Midwestern City by

Paul Cromwell & Michael Birzer (2007 Wichita State University)

- Overall, results indicated that burglary victimization results in emotional and psychological trauma similar to that of victims of personal violent crimes, and that the quality of the police response can go a long way in minimizing victims' emotional and behavioral symptoms.

The Emotional and Behavioral Impact of Burglary: A Case Study of Victims in a Midwestern City by

Paul Cromwell & Michael Birzer (Wichita State University)

- **...fear of being alone or the reoccurrence of the event through dreams and nightmares were often expressed by the victims...found that depression, reduced sense of self-efficiency, helplessness and higher levels of vulnerability are all symptoms of victimization that affect one's general well-being.**
- **Although many of these symptoms diminish in a short period of time, symptoms such as low self-esteem, depression, guilt, and fear were reported as common long-term problems...many burglary victims remained frightened when entering their residence or of being alone in the residence after dark.**
- **Most reactions to burglary fall into 2 categories, the invasion of privacy, and the emotional investment in the objects stolen or lost. Having a stranger in one's home can affect the sense of security that it provides, and has a great effect on the victim's sense of control, ownership, and comfort in their own home.**

The Emotional and Behavioral Impact of Burglary: A Case Study of Victims in a Midwestern City

by Paul Cromwell & Michael Birzer (2007 Wichita State University)

69% of the children experienced fear or were afraid to be alone, while 56% were reported to have experienced some other emotional or behavioral problem including, being overly clingy, loss of energy, change in appetite, anger, frustration, or difficulty in concentrating.

The most common security changes were installation of better outdoor lighting, alarm systems, dead-bolt locks, and window bars. *This effort appeared to make victims feel safer and gave them a sense that they had some semblance of control over their security.*

Aggravated Burglary-method

■ **Burglary Called Gateway Crime to Rape**

(APB News.com July 14, 2000) At least 40% of convicted sex offenders start their criminal careers as burglars, according to an on going study of inmates...

■ **Obsession by John Douglas**

“The rapist struck in the late-night and early-morning hours, generally breaking into homes through open windows or door that were either unlocked or easy for him to pry open...On several occasions his attempted rape was thwarted when relatives in a house responded to the intended victim’s surprised screams.”

■ **John Douglas**

“We know that sex offenders often have prior records of non-sex related crimes, and that burglary is a common precursor to rape.”

Home Invasion Crimes

- Not much information/misclassified
- Target Money, Drugs or Occupants
- Forced Entry or Deception, but methods similar to that of opportunistic burglars
- Atlanta (1994) Firearms for protection, not often used for that purpose-suggested target hardening

Emory University studied home invasion crimes and determine the frequency with which firearms are used to resist these crimes.

50% involved forced entry into the home

17% of offenders carried a firearm at the time of the crime

42% of offenders fled before confronting the victim

Victims who avoided confrontation were more likely to lose property but much less likely to be injured. No one died.

1.5% of the victims utilized a weapon to defend themselves

“Conclusion: A minority of home invasion crimes result in injury. Measures that increase the difficulty of forced entry or enhance the likelihood of detection could be useful to prevent these crimes. Although firearms are often kept in the home for protection, they are rarely used...”

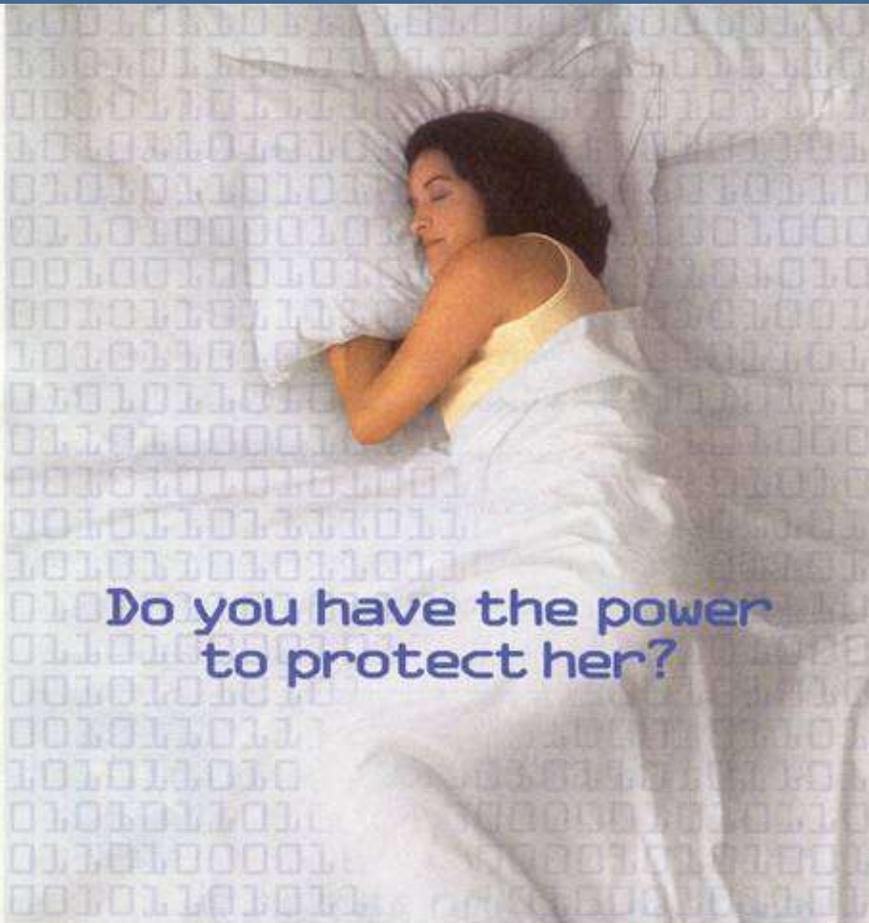
“Experts believe home invasions are underreported. Security experts who serve high-profile clients say their clients often don't report attempted robberies to the police because of privacy concerns. And local law-enforcement agencies only keep track of incidents within their jurisdictions, making it difficult to establish a national picture for these crimes.”

“One reason for the rise in home invasions is demographic: The numbers of rich people with homes to plunder has risen fast in recent years. But police and security experts say robbers are hitting homes more because their traditional targets -- banks, stores and offices -- have been hardened with closed-circuit video surveillance, alarms and guards. By comparison, security at many private homes remains lax, they say.”

And perhaps most importantly, they should thoroughly investigate the background of anyone who has access to their home, because many robberies are inside jobs.

What Are You Trying to Protect?





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to protect her?**

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% of alarms that are false?

Response times

Verified Response.

Q: Officers respond to a residence in reference to an alarm. Alarm company is indicating a interior motion. Officers arrive and find a back door open, but no signs of forced entry. Can they enter the residence?

What are the exemptions under the 4th Amendment to search a private residence?

Physical Security is the Foundation!

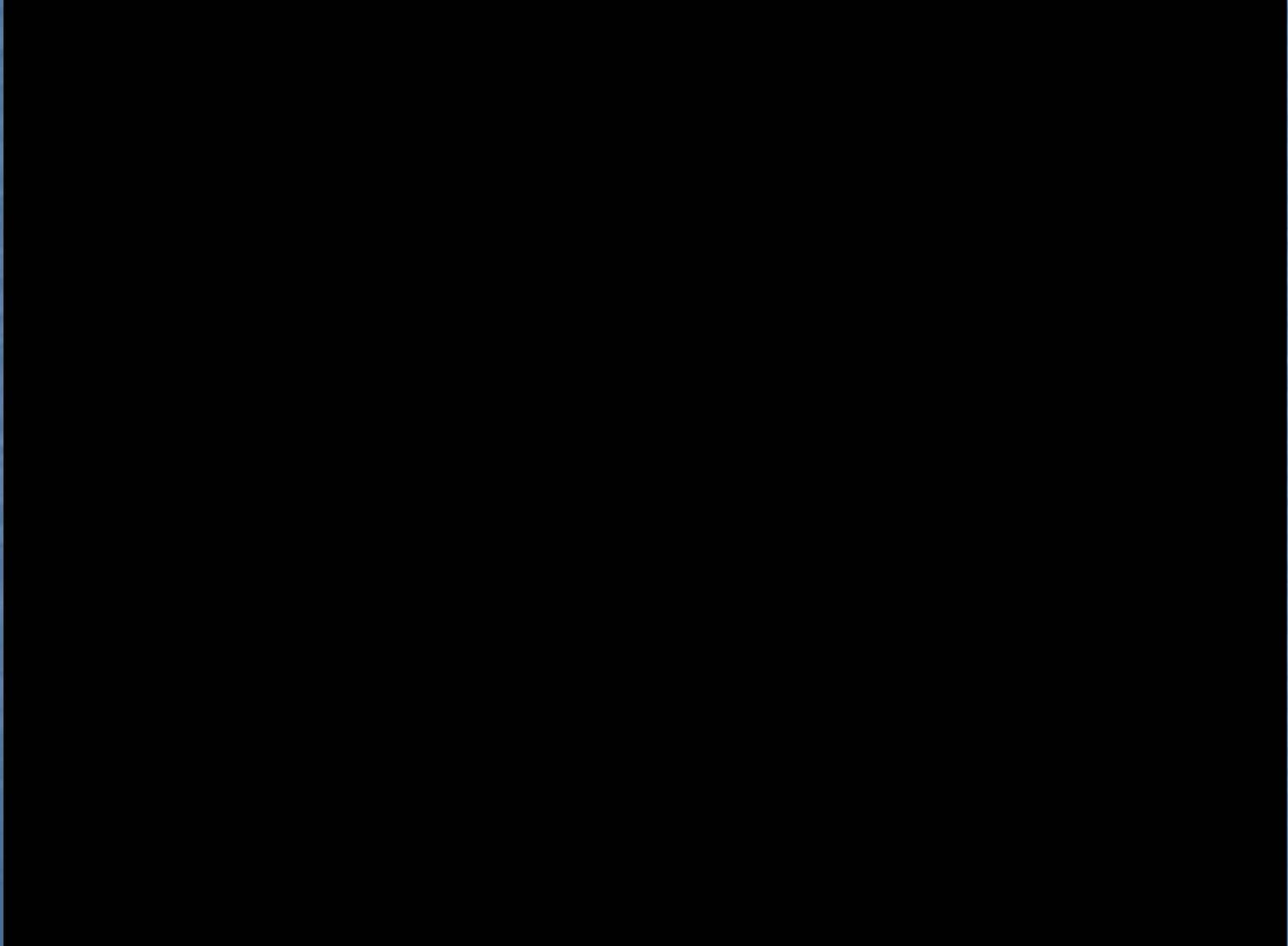
Cost Analysis: Physical/Alarms \$\$



Secure Entryway



Windows and Glazing



“Dogs have proven to be an effective deterrent to burglars.”

Researchers Paul Cromwell, James Olson and D’Aunn Avary write in their book, Breaking and Entering: An Ethnographic Analysis of Burglary (Sage, 1991)

“When asked what were considered absolute “no go” factors, most burglars responded that dogs were second only to occupancy. However, approximately 30% of the informants initially discounted the presence of dogs as a deterrent. Yet, during “ride alongs” the sight or sound of a dog at a potent site almost invariably resulted in a “no go” decision.”

Safe Room

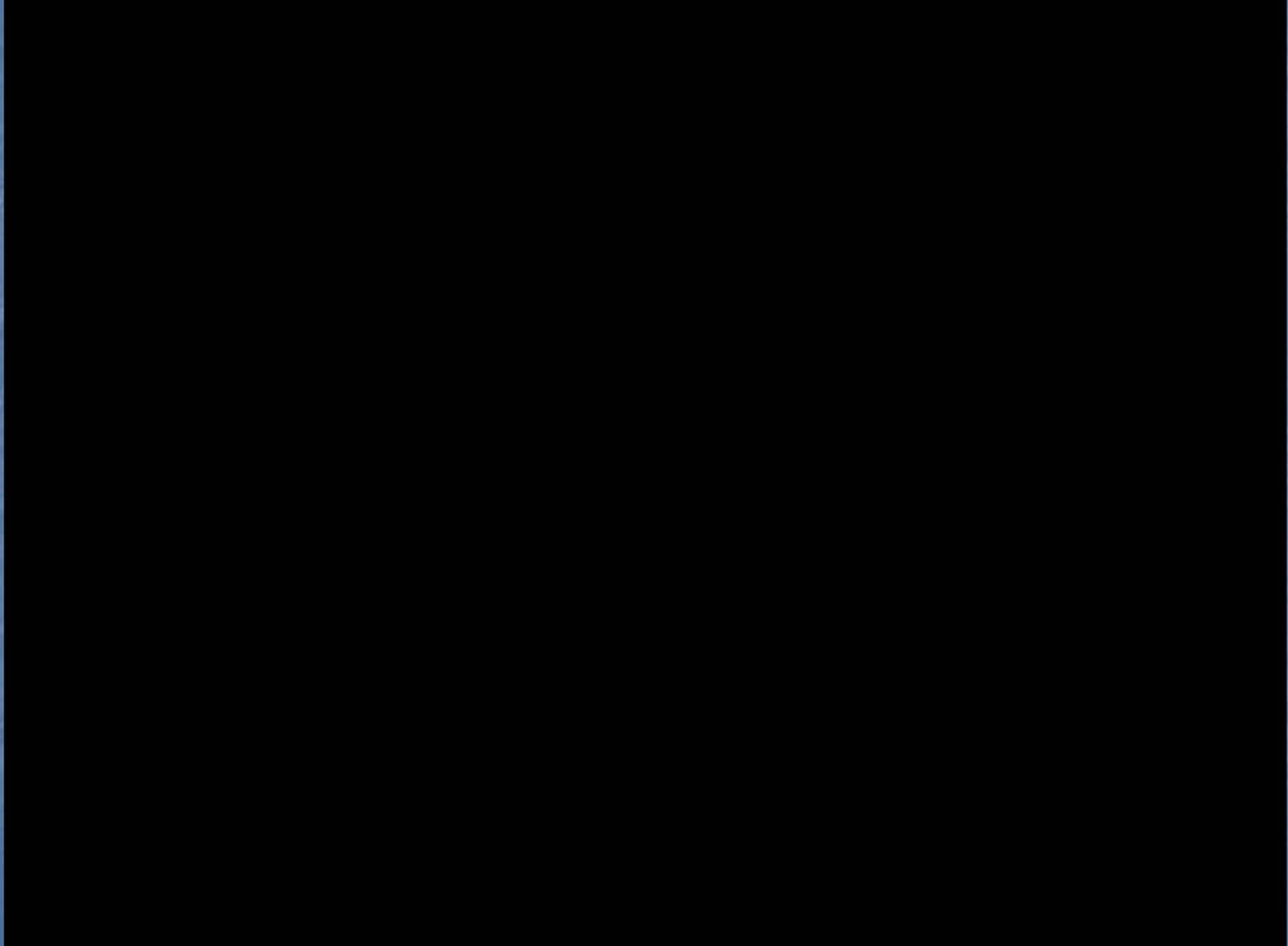


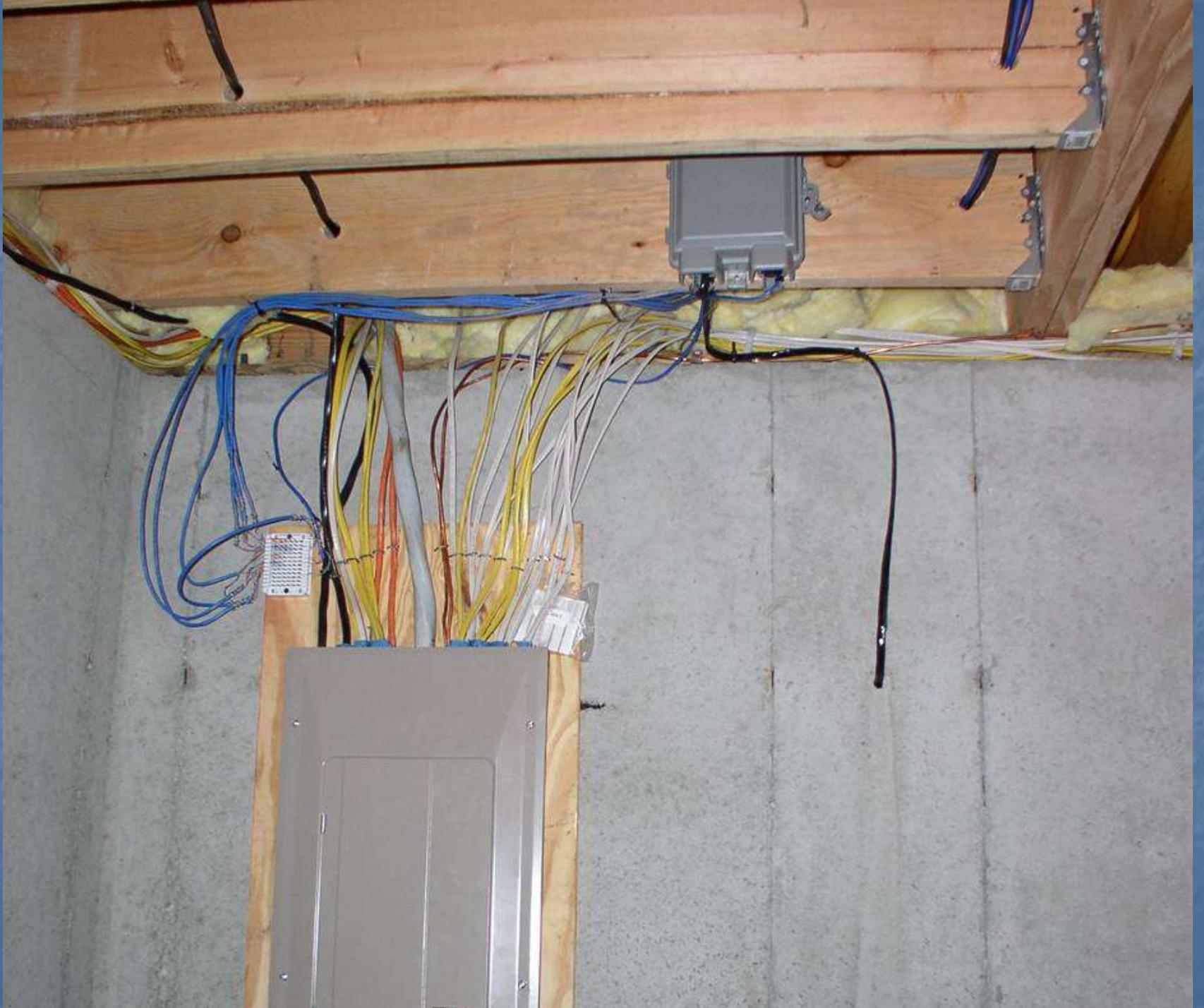
Security Houses





Security House Video





**Why place the siren on the exterior?
Why are most audible devices on the interior?**







RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

- [Free Residential Security Surveys](#)
- [Neighborhood Watch Program](#)
- [Security Alarms](#)
- [Residential Security Brochure \(.pdf file\)](#)



Most burglars allow themselves one to two minutes to get into a home. Beyond that, the risk of detection becomes too great. A good security strategy slows burglars down and pushes them past these time limits.

The fear of crime and its associated victimization causes some people to purchase home security alarms. But, for an alarm system to be truly effective, a homeowner must first address the physical security of their home.

Invest in quality security hardware and ensure it is properly installed. Unfortunately, homeowners cannot always assume a new or expensive home contains quality security hardware.

Several areas of the house should be evaluated for optimal safety including:

- [Doors](#)
- [Deadbolts](#)
- [Patio doors](#)
- [Windows](#)
- [Lighting](#)

Residential Security Ordinances

- An idea to incorporate security hardware into the construction of all new single family dwellings
- Simi Valley, CA
- Peel Regional Police: CST. Henri Berube
- Advantages of an ordinance
- Disadvantages of an ordinance

Advantages to an Ordinance

- Impact on a Community
- Standardization
- Holds down cost
- Product availability
- All contractors subject to standard

Disadvantages of an Ordinance

- **Installation and Quality**
- **Inspections**
- **Performance based/Prescriptive**
- **Inadequate performance standards**
- **Flexibility and Current**
- **Older infrastructure/New Construction**

Enforcing the Security Ordinance

Doors. Except for vehicular access doors (*overhead garage doors*), all exterior swinging doors of residential buildings and attached garages, including the doors leading from the garage area into the dwelling unit...



Exterior Doors

Wood doors. Where installed, exterior wood doors shall be of *solid core construction such as high-density particleboard, solid wood, or wood block core with a minimum thickness of one and three-fourths inches (1 3/4") at any point.* Doors with panel inserts shall be solid wood. The panels shall be a minimum of one inch (1") thick. The tapered portion of the panel that inserts into the groove of the door shall be a minimum of one-quarter inch (1/4") thick. The groove shall be a dado groove or applied molding construction. The groove shall be a minimum of one-half inch (1/2") in depth.

Exterior Doors

Steel doors. Where installed, exterior steel doors shall be a minimum thickness of **24 gauge**.

Fiberglass doors. Fiberglass doors shall have a minimum **skin thickness of one-sixteenth inch (1/16")** and have reinforcement material at the location of the deadbolt.

Double doors. Where installed, the inactive leaf of an exterior double door shall be provided with flush bolts having an engagement of not less than one inch into the head and threshold of the doorframe.

Door Frames

The exterior door frames shall be installed prior to a rough-in inspection.

Wood frames. Wood door frames shall comply with all of the following requirements:

A. All exterior door frames shall be set in frame openings constructed of double studding or equivalent construction, including garage doors, but excluding overhead doors.

Door frames, including those with sidelights shall be reinforced in accordance with ASTM F476-84 Grade 40.

B. In wood framing, horizontal blocking shall be placed between studs at the door lock height for three (3) stud spaces or equivalent bracing on each side of the door opening.

Door Jambs

A. Door jambs shall be installed with solid backing in a manner so no void exists between the strike side of the jamb and the frame opening for a vertical distance of twelve inches (12") each side of the strike. *Filler material shall consist of a solid wood block.*

B. Door stops on wooden jambs for in-swinging doors shall be of one-piece construction. Jambs for all doors shall be constructed or protected so as to prevent violation of the strike.



ASTM 476 Door Impact Test





Horizontal blocking





**“filler material to
eliminate any void
between the door jamb
and wall structure”**

Retrieve a copy of the Overland Park Municipal Building Code

www.opkansas.org

Overland Park Police Department
Community Policing Unit
Officer Bill Koehn

Bill.koehn@opkansas.org

913-327-6945

Overland Park's Residential Security Ordinance a decade later!



1999 to 2010

OP Ordinance 1999-2010

- issued **6,489 building permits** for single family dwellings (*monthly average of 54 permits*).
- Recorded 3,398 burglaries to single family dwellings city wide
- 243 burglaries were reported to single family dwellings which were built under the security ordinance. The 243 reports from each of those burglaries were read and categorized:
 - **89 open garage door burglaries**
 - **78 houses still under construction**
 - **38 burglaries showing no signs of forced entry or were unlocked**
 - **30 forced entry**
 - **8 attempts**

Analysis of the **30 Forced Entries**

- **18 window attacks**
 - (*15 suspects broke glass to gain access*)
- 8 single exterior doors were attacked and forced open
- 3 double doors attacked
- 1 garage door forced open

Full view glass doors

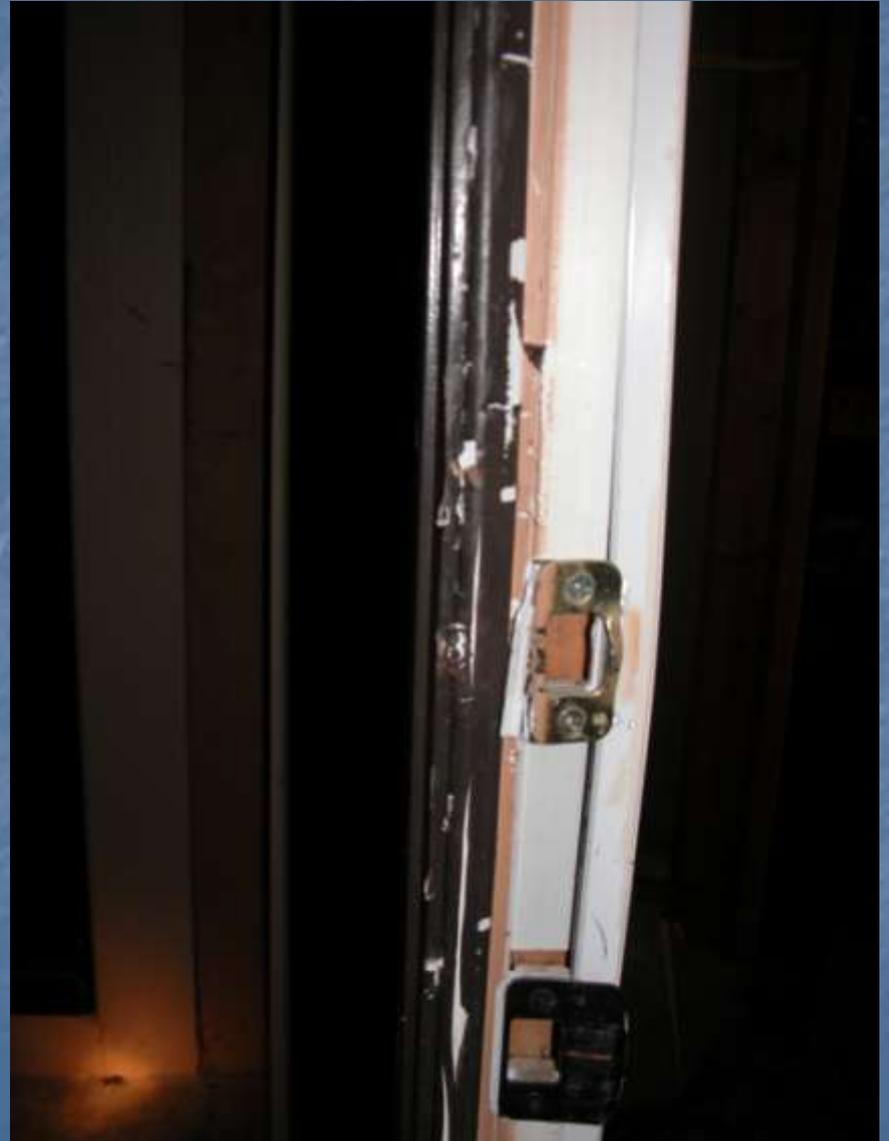


Doors either bent or broke permitting the lock to "roll" out of the strike.

Improperly installed hardware



Double Doors



8 Attempts

1) "Suspect tried kicking rear door" foot prints discovered

2002-045489

2) "Resident home with child as suspect tried to shoulder the door" *2009-003806*

3) Pry marks discovered on the door and window

2008-021214

4) "Resident was home when suspect shook rear door and could not gain entry" *2000-016812*

5) Suspect pried and kicked on the door *2006-008243*

Questions?



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