

Burglary Prevention

Independence Police

Crime Prevention Unit

Officer Rob Romey



Background on Video

- James (professional burglar)
 - Serving a life sentence
 - Claimed to have committed nearly 1,000 burglaries
 - Heroin Addict
 - \$400 per day habit

Deciding on a House

- Look for houses that were easy targets
 - Alcoves
 - Shrubby
 - Open Windows
 - Open blinds advertise what you have
 - Translucent window coverings

Determine Occupants

- Would try to confirm no one was home
 - Follow UPS and look for yellow stickers
 - Have packages delivered somewhere else
 - OR let neighbors know to look out for package
 - Knock on door
 - If someone answered would move on
 - Remember, always confirm to person knocking on door that you are home

Determine Occupants Cont.

- Check Garage
 - See if two cars were in garage
 - Cover windows
 - Black paint on inside

During Burglary

- In an out in 6 minutes
- Looks for big ticket items
 - Electronics
 - Computers
 - Back up often, keep back up disks separate
 - Jewelry
 - Have jewelry box containing costume jewelry visible
 - Hide valuables and real jewelry in unconventional spot
 - Guns
 - Cash
 - No “vacation fund” jars
 - Keep cash well hidden

When caught in the act...

- Will attempt to confuse and distract
 - False story of gas leak
 - Ask for directions
 - CALL POLICE IF YOU ENCOUNTER SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY!
- Attempt to avoid confrontation
 - Will run
 - Sneak out another door
 - However, will most likely fight if caught in a corner
 - Remember, James did not carry a gun, but there are those that do!

Types of Neighborhoods

- Adult neighborhoods
 - No children, children in school
 - Both adults work
- Neighborhoods where there is not a neighborhood watch in place

Deterrents

- Alarm system
 - Real System
 - Stickers do not always work
 - Looks for evidence of alarm system on windows
- Dogs
- Close mini-blinds and/or curtains
 - Translucent window coverings
- Neighborhood watch

The 3-Legged Table

- Think of crime as a three legged table. It must be supported by each leg in order to stand. These legs are:
 - Desire
 - Ability
 - Opportunity

Desire

- Desire is the one we should do nothing about. When we try to take away desire by keeping ourselves from buying nicer items, we are living in fear. This is not an acceptable solution.

Ability

- We can remove the ability in a few different ways:
 - We can lock and secure doors
 - We can bar basement windows
 - We can add alarm systems
 - We can adopt a pack of rabid wolves

Opportunity

- We can remove the opportunity in a few different ways:
 - Solid Watch Groups
 - Full and Active Neighborhoods
 - CPED (crime prevention through environmental design)
 - Lighting
 - Clear views
 - Alcoves
 - Trees and shrubs

Conclusion

It may not be possible to stop all burglaries, however a concerned neighborhood working together to prevent crime can help to drastically reduce crime in you area.