

FACTS & STATS

What is considered a burglary...

Burglary is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as a burglary. Burglary is categorized into three sub classifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report 2005

Burglary Facts and Statistics...

- Property crime makes up slightly more than three-quarters of all crime in the United States
- In 2005, law enforcement agencies reported an estimated 2,154,126 burglary offenses—a 0.5-percent increase compared with 2004 data.
- An examination of 5- and 10-year trends revealed a 1.8-percent increase in the number of burglaries compared with the 2001 estimate, and a 14.1-percent decline from the 1996 number.
- Burglary accounted for 21.2 percent of the estimated number of property crimes committed in 2005. The average dollar loss per burglary offense in 2005 was \$1,725.
- Of all burglary offenses in 2005, 65.8 percent were of residential structures.
- Most (62.4 percent) of residential burglaries in 2005 for which time of occurrence was known took place during the day, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Among burglaries of nonresidential structures when time of occurrence was known, 58.0 percent occurred at night.
- A burglary takes place in the U.S. every 14.6 seconds according to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program Crime Clock.
- According to the FBI Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January-June, 2006, “burglary offenses showed an increase, up 1.2 percent from the 2005 level.”
- Overall, in about 84% of all burglaries, the offender gained entry into the victim’s residence or other building on the property.

Source: Crime in the United States 2005 Department of Justice — Federal Bureau of Investigation Release Date: September 2006

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

Where Do Burglars Enter a Home ???

One survey in Pennsylvania showed that 81 percent of residential intrusions occur through the first floor.

34 percent of burglars entered through the front door;

23 percent through a first-floor window;

22 percent through the back door;

9 percent through the garage;

4 percent entered through a basement;

4 percent through an unlocked entrance;

2 percent through a storage area;

and only 2 percent entered anywhere on the second floor.

A study in Connecticut showed that 12 percent of burglaries occurred through an

UNLOCKED door and that in 41 percent of alarmed homes that were burglarized; the security system was not turned on.

Security Systems Reduce Burglaries...

Homes without security systems are about 3 times more likely to be broken into than homes with security systems. (Actual statistic ranges from 2.2 times to 3.1 times, depending on the value of the home.)

Businesses without alarm systems are 4.5 times more likely to be burglarized than commercial locations with electronic security in place. Losses due to burglary average \$400 less in residences with security systems than for a residence without security systems.

Source: An Academic Study of Home and Business Security, Temple University Department of Economics Simon Hakim and Andrew Buck, 1992

Police Believe Security Systems Reduce Burglaries...

In 1994, the International Association of Chiefs of Police passed a Board Resolution stating that professionally installed and monitored alarm systems are useful instruments to deter crime and provide peace of mind for residential and business owners. More recently, in a survey of 1,000 police and fire chiefs, 85 percent of the police officials said security systems decrease the likelihood a home will be burglarized. Almost 90 percent felt security systems increase their chances of apprehending burglars, and 85 percent said they encourage the installation of electronic security systems in residences and businesses in their communities.

Source: Private Security Report from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

A new study conducted by *Security Sales & Integration* and sister publication *Police* has found that 96 percent of the law enforcement community believes the alarm industry is of value to both police and civilians. Other key results of the study include: More than half of the respondents report cooperative relationships with alarm companies; Nearly nine in 10 law officers who have their own security alarm systems use them regularly; 84 percent of police say alarm systems are an effective means to protect people and property; and 56 percent of all agencies have no plans to implement any policy changes related to false alarms.

People Feel Safe with Security Systems...

94 percent of alarm owners are satisfied with their alarm systems. Nearly 90 percent of U.S. households rate home security alarms as moderately or very effective, according to a Consumer Home Security Study conducted in part by the National Family Opinion Research Institute.

Source: Security Industry Association Research Update Vol.3, 2001

Facts about Burglar Bars...

California has passed laws requiring that security bars used on escape windows be releasable and that all security bars be labeled with safety information. Mississippi and Texas have laws with varying requirements. Underwriters Laboratories has set standards for window-bar releasing systems.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (www.NFPA.org)

Quick Facts: Basic Precautions to Reduce Burglary...

There are four basic types of precautions which must be provided to significantly reduce the chance of burglary:

- **Deterring Measures:** These are security measures which are likely to lower the chance of a break-in when the burglar cruises the neighborhood in search of a target. Burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied. Thus, deterring measures suggest that somebody is at home. For example, a car in the driveway, motion sensitive exterior lights, interior lights, and radios and TVs on timers, all give the impression that someone is in the home.
- **Preventive Measures:** These are security measures which make the actual break-in more difficult and/or time consuming. Burglars spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into a home. Measures which rise this time may cause burglars to change their mind. Some examples include deadbolt locks, bars on windows, and pins in sash windows.
- **Detection Measures:** These are measures which detect the presence of an intruder on the premises and send a message out. Only a burglar alarm serves that purpose.
- **Managerial Measures:** In nature, these measures are in the deterrence category. They are not physical precaution measures like the three previous categories but are associated with the deterring category in their objective, which is to produce the impression that somebody is home. They include stopping newspaper and mail delivery, notifying police when you will be away, and having neighbors watch your home.

Source: Dr. Simon Hakim, Temple University, 215-204-5037

How to Protect Your Home While on Vacation

Burglars Go Shopping While You're On Vacation

Picture this: you and your family are returning from a fun-filled vacation, ready to unpack and update the photo album. Only when you get home, you find the front door open, the back window broken, and valuables missing from all over the house, including your "clever" hiding places in the dresser drawer and in the back of the freezer. You're not alone. Each year, nearly 5 million families become victims of household burglary, often while they've been away on vacation.

Your Home Sends Signals

According to the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA), there are some simple steps you can take to make your home less attractive to would-be burglars. The best way is to combine the list of ideas below with a professionally installed and monitored electronic security alarm system in your home. Before you leave on your trip, pack your sunblock and be sure to:

- Get a trusted friend or relative to "house sit." Or, make sure your neighbors know your plans.
- Have a neighbor pick up your newspapers and your mail for you daily.
- Lock all doors and windows, and secure the garage door.
- Leave a car parked in the driveway, or ask a neighbor to park in your driveway.
- Leave a house key -- and a number where you can be reached -- with a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off at certain times, altering lighting patterns, to create an occupied look.
- Leave drapes and shades open as normal. (Closed blinds during the day are a sure sign of an empty house, plus they allow a burglar to attend to his business unseen by neighbors.)

- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Be sure your trees and hedges have been trimmed. This gives burglars fewer places to hide.
- Replace any burned-out lights in your yard. Consider upgrading outdoor light fixtures with devices that have built-in motion detectors, which turn on the lights whenever anyone walks past.

Electronic Security

An electronic security system adds a barrier of protection to your home that is unparalleled. The NBFAA recommends that consumers purchase systems from its members. NBFAA members are exposed to training, certification and information that sets them apart from the rest. The association recommends calling at least three companies before selecting an installer. Prices will vary, based on the level of protection and type of technology used, so be sure to compare apples-to-apples bids on similar systems. Don't forget to factor in monthly monitoring charges.

How to Have a Safe and Sound Holiday Season

With the holiday season here, many Americans will be spending time at home with family and friends. To make sure families stay safe and sound this holiday season, the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) recommends the following home safety and security tips.

Holiday Safety Tips

For most Americans, the holidays mean turning on the heat and putting logs on the fire. What this also means is an increased risk for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO gas can come from several sources including gas-fired appliances, cars and trucks, gas grills and wood-burning furnaces and fireplaces. Each year, CO poisoning causes approximately 480 deaths and more than 15,000 hospital visits in the United States. Since CO is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas, it can kill before its victims are even aware of it. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild flu-like symptoms.

To prevent CO poisoning, consumers should have a qualified technician inspect fuel-burning appliances at least once a year. Vehicles should never be left running while in the garage, even with the garage door opened, a common practice when trying to warm a vehicle on a cold day. Deadly emissions can get trapped inside the house and cause CO poisoning.

In addition, a certified and independently lab-tested CO detector should be installed outside sleeping areas. A CO detector will sound an alarm before dangerous levels of CO accumulate. For added safety, consider having a CO detector included as part of a monitored home security system. This ensures that rescue personnel will be notified by a monitoring station if the victim is incapacitated.

Fire safety is another consideration during the holidays. Both Christmas tree and candle fires are highest in December, with Christmas day being the peak day for candle fires.

Follow these tips to help ensure a fire-free holiday:

- Always keep candles away from holiday decorations and other combustible materials.
- Whenever possible, choose decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

- Use care when selecting lights and electrical decorations and check for certification by an independent testing lab. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Carefully inspect all strands of lights (new and used) and replace broken bulbs before plugging them in.
- Do not overload extension cords and make sure not to connect more strands than allowed.
- Turn off all lights and electrical decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Consider adding fire detection devices to a monitored home security system; not only will the alarm sound, but the fire department will be alerted when no one is home, or in the event there is an incapacitated victim in the home.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. During the holidays, when friends and relatives are around, it's easy to leave the stove unattended. Just remember to keep an eye on the range at all times.

One final safety note: before welcoming guests into the home, test all smoke detectors and fire alarms. When guests arrive, make sure everyone knows what the fire escape plan is and how to operate the alarm, especially if they will be in the home alone. And, if children are on the guest list, be sure to secure matches, lighters and other hazardous materials out of reach.

Holiday Security Tips

The holidays offer many wonderful opportunities for giving to others, but someone not on the nice list is the local burglar. According to the FBI, a burglary occurs every 14 seconds in the United States, with more than 2 million burglaries in 2007 totaling an estimated \$4.3 billion in lost property.

Here are some tips to prevent this crime:

- Since more than half of all residential burglaries occur during the daytime hours when many people are away from home, consumers are advised to be extra cautious about locking doors and windows before leaving and making sure installed alarm systems are activated.
- Don't invite burglars in with a tempting display of holiday gifts that can be seen from the outside.

If you are going away for the holidays, you can follow this simple checklist created by NBFSA to minimize your risk of a home burglary.

- **Eliminate the opportunity:** Many burglars and thieves are opportunistic and many of their crimes are crimes of opportunity rather than pre-planned crimes. An open, empty garage is a sign to thieves that reads, "Come on in, everything must go." A vehicle parked outside with a remote control garage door opener hanging from the visor lets them know the residence is open for business as well. Before leaving the home, make sure everything is locked and secured. Remove all garage door openers from any vehicles that will be left outside while away.
- **Discourage the thief:** Since burglars prefer to break in to homes that look unoccupied, lower the home's appeal by making it look like someone's there. Use timers on lights, radios and televisions, ask neighbors to put trash cans out on trash day, arrange for mail and newspaper delivery to stop or ask a friend to collect them.
- **Prevent easy access:** Make the home a more difficult target by increasing the time it takes a burglar to enter. This is done by simply making sure all doors and windows are locked, installing deadbolt locks on all outside doors and keeping trees and hedges near the home trimmed to limit hiding places.
- **Detect an intruder:** NBFSA recommends investing in a home security system. What better gift for the holidays? In an industry survey of 1,000 public safety officials, 85 percent of police chiefs said security systems decrease the likelihood a home will be

burglarized, and almost 90 percent felt security systems increased their chances of apprehending burglars.

About the NBFAA

NBFAA, a non-profit 501(c) 6 trade association, is the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to representing, promoting, and supporting the electronic life safety, security, and systems industry. Member companies specialize in services to commercial and residential consumers, including security and fire alarms, video surveillance, access control and monitoring. The NBFAA may be reached at (888) 447-1689 or on the Web at www.alarm.org.

STRAUSS IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE NBFAA

US Dept of Justice Summary findings

- In 2007, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced approximately 23 million crimes, according to findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey.
 - 76% (17.5 million) were property crimes
 - 23% (5.2 million) were crimes of violence
 - 1% (194,100) were personal thefts
- In 2007, for every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, there occurred
 - 1 rape or sexual assault
 - 1 assault with injury
 - 2 robberies.
- Murders were the least frequent violent victimization -- about 6 murder victims per 100,000 persons in 2007.

Overview of Fires...

In 2005, there were 1,602,000 fires reported in the United States (down 3% from 2004). These fires caused 3,675 civilian deaths, 17,925 civilian injuries, 87 firefighter deaths, and \$10.7 billion in property damage.**

Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 60 seconds, and a residential fire occurs every 77 seconds. Nationwide in 2004, there was a civilian fire death every 135 minutes and a civilian injury every 30 minutes.**

The most common causes for fires in homes from 1999-2002, starts with number one cooking equipment, followed by heating equipment, intentional causes, open flame, electrical distribution equipment, appliances and finally smoking material.

**Source: National Fire Protection Association (www.NFPA.org)

Residential Fires are Expensive and Deadly...

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 381,000 home structure¹ fires. These fires caused 13,300 civilian injuries, 3,030 civilian deaths, \$6.7 billion in direct damage.

- 82% of all civilian fire deaths resulted from home structure fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Kitchens are the leading area of origin for home structure fires (34%) and civilian home fire injuries (33%).
- Only 6% of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den; these fires caused 29% of home fire deaths.
- 12% of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused 26% of home fire deaths, 25% of home fire injuries, and 17% of the direct property damage.
- Smoking is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.
- January was the peak month for home structure fires and home fire deaths.
- 74% of reported home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2005, 13 home fires killed five or more people. These 13 fires resulted in 80 deaths.

Source: National Fire Protection Association 2005

Please visit the NFPA's web site for additional specific "Safety Tips & Fact Sheets"
<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=244&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Fact%20sheets%20and%20safety%20tips>

Arson Increases Slightly in 2005...

Arson offenses, which are tracked separately from other property crime offenses, increased 6.8 percent nationwide.

Source: Crime in the United States 2005 Department of Justice — Federal Bureau of Investigation Release Date: September 2006