

Notes from NCTPD presentation on burglary

- **Burglary** : according to Crime Code Section 3502 (a) is the entering of a building or occupied structure or separately secured portion thereof AND the intent to commit a crime.
- Lookouts, getaway drivers and those people who have knowledge of but take no action to prevent the burglary are also punished under the law.
- A person who attempts but fails to carry out the burglary is also punished under this law.
- Most often, burglary is a source for drugs; the acquirement of valuables to sell for money.
- Burglars are opportunists, not planners. They are able to size up their potential targets quickly by driving thru a neighborhood. For example: they may see a vehicle leaving a residence and the garage door does not close. They will use this as an opportunity to commit burglary.
- **Knocking Burglar**: MOST COMMON IN NCT AND CORNWALL. This is a person who approaches your home during daylight, looks casual (maybe carries a clipboard or other professional looking item) and knocks or rings the doorbell to check if the residence is occupied. They check deadbolts, look in your home via windows. If you don't answer your door, they assume you are not at home and most often use their shoulder or kick in a door to gain entrance.
- Forcing doors is the most common route of access. Breaking windows is not.

Statistics

- 2010 NCTPD responded to 300 alarms in the township with an average response time of 5 minutes.
- 2009 Uniform Crime Report for PA reported 54,519 burglaries (149/day)
- There were just under 10,000 arrests for the above reported burglaries.
- 89% of burglary suspects are male
- 74% are white
- 58% are under age 25
- They are most commonly addicted to illegal drugs

Target Hardening

- Object is to strengthen security and make your structure stronger
- Accept responsibility
- Think like the enemy – be prepared, not paranoid
- Take action
- Use adequate internal and external lights and motion sensors.
- Use adequate locks and security measures on all access points such as windows, basement windows and bilco doors.
- Consider a quality alarm system.

- Eliminate potential hiding places or blind spots including hedges, trees and bushes
- Use the 3 by 6 rule – bushes and shrubs should be no higher than 3’ and trees should be pruned to 6’ off the ground.
- Keep shrubs low enough that someone can’t hide behind them.
- Consider your trash – when throwing out old TVs or boxes that contained new and expensive electronic equipment. Place these items curbside as close to your trash pickup as possible.
- DO NOT use your name on your mailbox but DO use visible numbers. The computer search engines make it very easy to gain information about you by using your name.
- Close your blinds when away.
- Turn off your phone ringer when on vacation.
- Consider using a FAKE TV when on vacation. These are available on the internet for approx. \$30.00. they use as much energy as a nightlight. Set the timer for the desired length of time and direct it toward a closed, transparent blind. It will appear that a TV is on in that room.
- Talk to trusted neighbors when you plan to be away from your home
- Don’t keep valuables stored together. Use safes, lock boxes, hollowed out books and fake outlets.
- **Make a single list of your valuables including serial numbers, make, models and any other identifying features. Take pictures or a video of each item or room in your home containing valuables. Etch your name, address or drivers license number on your valuables. These tips make identification of your stolen items easier for officers.**

Vacation tips

- stop mail and newspaper
- request house checks from the police department. Forms are available at www.nctown.org

Always remember the police department is here for you. Please don’t hesitate to call and report any suspicious person or vehicle in your area.

The next part of this presentation will be announced in a few months. The topic at that time will include personal and vehicle safety. Please watch for the date and plan to attend. Hope to see you there!