



Residential Robbery Safety

The crime of residential robbery, commonly referred to as “home invasion” is a frightening and potentially dangerous crime that can occur to a resident while in their home. Residential robbery is when an intruder(s) forces their way into a residence with the specific intent to attack the occupant(s) for the purpose of theft.

- Some victims can be specifically targeted, or it can be random and they are chosen due to opportunity.
- Residential robbery suspects usually work in a group in the day or night. They have a different motivation and mind-set than a typical burglar.
- Residential robbery suspects are very dangerous and are willing to include violence in their attacks.

Common Methods Used

In all these methods the intention of force, control, and fear are present. The robber or robbers use these tactics to overpower and/or out-number their victim and to scare the victim into compliance.

1. **DECEPTION** - This is where the suspect(s) will try to trick the resident into opening the door by claiming a fake emergency, a sales pitch, a package delivery, telling you they have damaged your car, etc. Once the resident opens the door, the suspect(s) will force their way inside. *The goal of the suspect is to get the home owner to just open the door slightly and overpower the victim.*
2. **FORCE** - The suspect(s) will actually kick-in or smash-in at the point of entry into the home. This could be the front home door, a side or back door, or the door leading into the home from the garage. The resident can be taken completely by a frightful surprise when this occurs. This type of entry may start with a simple knock at the door.
3. **STEALTH** - The suspect(s) gain entry quietly into the home and then confronts the resident inside the home. The homeowner is completely unaware that entry has been made until the confrontation.
4. **GARAGE** - This where the suspect(s) may follow someone home and then confront them, or, the suspect(s) may drive through a neighborhood seeking a person either

arriving home, in their garage, or opening the garage door. This allows the suspect immediate contact with the resident making the crime easier to commit.

Prevention Methods

Pre-thinking the situations of home invasion offers the resident a chance to prepare for the unexpected. It allows the resident a chance to **chance to prepare for the unexpected.** It allows for a safety plan and response that will hopefully prevent a crime. It will help the resident to respond in a way that minimizes the danger and allows the resident to survive the encounter. While no one method or response can be applied to all situations, there are things a resident can do to minimize what can occur.

Regardless of the type of resident you live in, there are some crime prevention measures you can take when guarding against home invasion.

Always have a verbal response to any knock. Avoid giving the impression that the residence is unoccupied. This may be a ploy of the home invader or a burglar to decide if you are home or not. Teach your children what to say so they do not give the impression they are home alone. Know in advance what your response should be and practice it with other family members.

Keep an eye on anyone you turn away and what they do next. Report anyone who lingers, tries to get a neighbor to open their door, or otherwise acts suspiciously. They may have left your front door but they are still a concern to others. Call the police if necessary and ask that this individual be checked out. The non-emergency number is **3-1-1** and the emergency number is **9-1-1**.

In a gated community, take as many precautions as you would if the gate was not there. If someone calls your home from the gate and creates a reason to be let into the neighborhood, do not let them in if you cannot verify who and why.

Be suspicious of unexpected knocks. If you are not expecting anyone, a service call, or otherwise, do not open the door without asking questions and verifying the call.

Be aware of ploys such as fake emergencies, fake deliveries, etc. Know that the person knocking may have a practiced or rehearsed message and it may sound legitimate. Be just as cautious if the knocker is a woman or young adult.

Use your viewing methods to help verify. Peep holes, nearby windows, vantage points from other rooms may be used to see who is knocking. Enhanced peep holes of a larger diameter are recommended.

Do not feel pressured or forced to open your door. You have the ability to allow those into your home that you know and trust. All others are not welcomed - or worth the risk!

Consider a high quality security screen door or enclosed porch/entry way to maintain a barrier between you and the door knocker. This is especially helpful if the door is opened without verifying because there will still be some protection between you and the other person.

Install and maintain adequate security lighting for the perimeter of your home. Automatic dusk-to-dawn lights are good.

Schedule a free Home Security Check with a Metro Crime Prevention Specialist. Contact them at the Area Command that provides police service to your neighborhood. .