



Fire,
Security,
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Surveillance

"QUALITY AND PEACE OF MIND SINCE 1969"

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THE ADVISOR

*A Quarterly Security Guide Especially
Prepared for the Clients and Friends of A.A.S.C.O.*

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Make It A Safe Summer

When driving your vehicle, there's an old saying that you should always keep in mind: *Whenever you see a bouncing ball ... look for a bouncing child right behind it.* Kids do indeed have energy to burn, but traffic mishaps are just a small part of the danger. Here are some other ways you can protect your children and grandchildren:

Around the yard—According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 800 children a year are run over by riding mowers.

- Never allow a child on a riding mower with you or anyone else.
- Before mowing, walk around your yard and remove any debris, such as sticks, stones or pieces of metal that might become airborne.
- When using a lawn mower, keep children indoors or as far away as possible
- Do not allow children under 14 years of age to operate a riding mower, or children under the age of 12 to operate a walk-behind mower.



Playgrounds can be hazardous places—It's estimated that over 250,000 children a year in North America are treated at hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with playground equipment.

- Always stay close to your child and supervise his or her activities.
- Check playground equipment to make sure it is in good condition. Look for sharp edges, points or protruding objects that might hurt your child.
- Check the ground around the equipment as well for broken glass or other dangerous objects. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.
- Make sure your child's clothing does not have drawstrings or loose belts that could catch in equipment.

Many injuries around the home and playground can be prevented with common sense and supervision. For more information visit www.safekids.org and help the children in your life have a happy, safe summer. ❖

What's Inside:

- ◆ "Business Opportunities" from a Burglar's Point of View
- ◆ The Clear Advantages of Security-Glazed Glass
- ◆ Tearing Your Identity to Shreds
- ◆ "What's That Noise?"



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"Business Opportunities" from a Burglar's Point of View

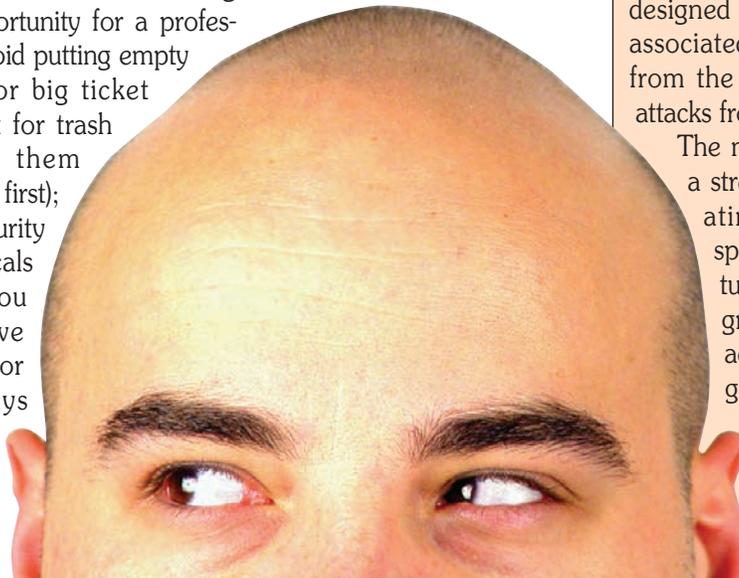
According to actual interviews and conversations with professional career criminals there are a number of specific things they look for during their search for "business opportunities". For example, an upscale home, with a well kept yard and multiple, late model vehicles, is more likely to yield the most lucrative haul of electronic gear, cameras, guns and jewelry.

Career criminals are rational, decision-making business people that rely on a calculated and thoughtful process of evaluation when choosing a property to burglarize—even though they might not even be aware of the process on a conscious level. Some of the more generalized criteria include upscale communities preferably inhabited by new homeowners (who probably haven't had time to make any security system decisions yet) and in close proximity to a major thoroughfare. Other prime considerations are homes on corner lots, homes in upper-middle-income neighborhoods and older homes with an attached garage—because once inside the garage, getting into the home is usually no problem.

You might be surprised to learn that a professional burglar's major concern is not *IF* he or she can gain access to a home, but rather, how quickly they can gain entry, do their "business" and get away from the scene unobserved. As one burglar said, "Once I choose a neighborhood, I look for what type of security precautions are in place, then I choose a street and specific house."

The most common times chosen by professional burglars are in the late afternoon, between dusk and early evening, when most people are likely to be away. Many will call the home on the phone or just knock on the front door—which accounts for the fact that about 34% of all burglaries are the result of front door entry, 23% through first floor windows and 22% through back doors.

To help keep your home from looking like a prime business opportunity for a professional burglar: 1) avoid putting empty packing cartons for big ticket electronic items out for trash collection (break them down and bag them first); 2) display your security system window decals or yard signs (if you don't have any, we can provide them for you); and 3) always arm your system when your home is not occupied. ❖



The Clear Advantages of Security-Glazed Glass



Security-glazed glass consists of two pieces of glass and a tough plastic interlayer bonded together permanently with heat and pressure. Once bonded, the sandwiched materials behave as a single piece with exceptional impact resistance. A basic 1/4-inch-thick pane of security-glazed glass (with a 0.030-inch-thick interlayer) can withstand repeated blows with a ball peen hammer. More elaborate combinations of glass and plastic laminations can provide greater security, up to and including bullet and blast resistance levels.

Unlike safety glass, which only needs to be resistant to human impact, security-glazed glass is designed to withstand dynamic structural loads associated with security threats. These range from the tools associated with forced entry to attacks from firearms and bombs.

The most typical forced entry threat involves a street level door or window. When evaluating your home's or business's weak spots, consider upgrading the security status of glass doors and windows, both at ground level and at upper levels that are accessed easily. Conversion to security-glazed, or wire-reinforced glass panels can help to significantly raise the level of your home and business exterior protection. ❖

Tearing Your Identity to Shreds

We've been quietly covering this topic for years. Now, it seems that at least once or twice a month the national news media reports on this or that incident of "identity theft" as if it were a late-breaking news item.

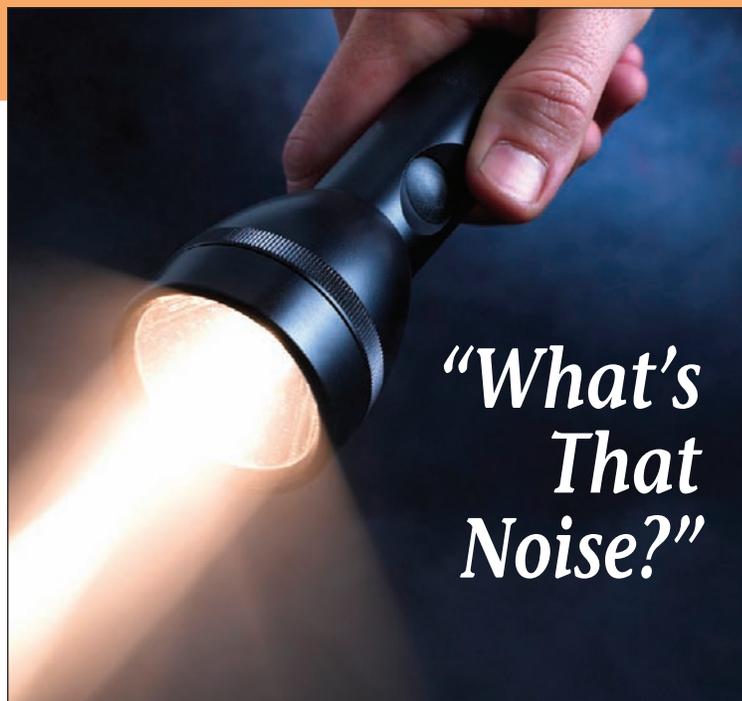
If someone obtains personal information about you—such as your credit card, bank account or personal identification number—he or she may be able to commit fraud, ruin your credit rating, or simply withdraw all of your money from your bank account.

Your best protection for your identity and your financial security is a simple rule to remember: *Never throw anything away—not in the garbage or the paper recycle bin—that has your name, address or any identifying account numbers or codes on it.*

We strongly recommend that if you haven't done so already, you invest in a document shredder. They can be obtained at any office supply store—and most department stores—for less than \$50.

With a document shredder, you can make identity theft prevention a simple matter. Simply tear-off the address portion of all the magazines and catalogs (don't forget the pre-addressed order forms inside) you receive and feed them through the shredder. Do the same with envelopes and any document that has your identity on it—including all of those "pre-approved" credit card offers you receive each week.

Getting into the habit of shredding your identity is worth the few extra moments it may take when you consider the substantial damage to your financial security—and the havoc to your life—that identity theft can cause. ❖



It's estimated that approximately 15 percent of all break-ins take place when at least one person is at home. Law enforcement officials say Survival Rule Number One is: Don't confront the intruder!

If you should ever suspect that an intruder has gained access to your home, leave the premises. Run to a neighbor's house and call 911 from there. If you can't leave without the chance of a confrontation, or there are others in the house with you, gather everyone together in one room where there is a telephone. Barricade the door with the heaviest piece of furniture you can move and call 911.

Next, according to the recommendations of crime prevention professionals, *make enough noise to wake the dead!* Set off an alarm, turn a radio or television on at full volume, holler—all of which should serve to frighten the criminal away.

If you cannot avoid a confrontation with an intruder, try to remain as calm and alert as possible under the circumstances so that you can give police an accurate description later. The experts suggest that cooperation is your best course of action. Let them take the stereo, the TV, the cash, the car, whatever they want. Don't, however, under any circumstances leave the property with the criminal. Survival experts stress that going with a criminal to a secondary location merely courts disaster.

As always, your best line of defense is to maintain a high level of security at your home at all times. Locking doors, locking windows, and arming your system at bedtime is your best way to prevent an intruder from gaining access to your home. ❖

Get The Latest Security Advantage For Your Security System With Back-up Cellular Monitoring

Please call for details

410-766-8336

Dear Valued Customer,

Summertime can bring hectic schedules and all too often, momentary opportunities when criminals can take advantage. No dollar value can be assigned to the emotional distress a burglar leaves in his or her wake. During this busy time of year we urge you to be ever vigilant at home and on the go. Be sure to arm your system each and every time you leave your home or office.

As the reliability issues of telephone technology change, we want you to know that there are cellular back up options for your security system. Please call Ronnie, (410) 766-8336 ex. 21 for the products available in your area.

TECH TIP: To prevent false alarms, make sure that each alarm user knows the "false alarm" password.

Also, please remember to test your alarm system.

Sincerely,



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VACATION TRAVEL TIPS

Even experienced travelers can be victimized when they are tired and in unfamiliar surroundings. Your vacation could also take on a whole different dimension if you are duped by one of these common travel-time deceptions.

- The fake porter: He's waiting along the curb outside the airport and may even be wearing a uniform of some sort. He leaves with your luggage, and you never see it again. To avoid this scam, either unload your luggage directly at your airline's curbside baggage check-in or select a porter from inside the terminal which will decrease your chances of being robbed.
- The broken taxi meter: Exorbitant fares are common. Either agree on a reasonable fare in advance, or find a cab with a working meter.
- The credit card switch: Instead of giving your own credit card back, the con artist gives you one that is expired or stolen. Always look at the card returned to you.
- The hurried cash transaction: Don't be rushed. You could find you have purchased faulty goods.
- Obsolete currency exchange: When traveling in another country, if a money changer offers you a much better deal than the going rate, beware! You could be getting counterfeit bills, or currency that is no longer in use.
- Be wary: In all cases, agree on the prices of services in advance. And, just like at home, anything that sounds too good to be true probably is.

Traveling at home or abroad has become more complicated than ever before. Criminals look for travelers who appear to be confused and/or exhausted because they often represent easy targets. You can avoid being their next victim by staying alert and reacting suspiciously to any activity that seems out of the ordinary. ❖

