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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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## CARJACKING FACTS

According to the experts, here are the common-thread statistics on carjackings: Most occur in the early evening hours, between 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm. Nearly half occur on weekends: Friday, Saturday and Sunday. What makes carjacking exceptionally dangerous is that an estimated 90 percent of them involve handguns.

The most common locations for carjackings are: parking lots, followed by city streets, residential driveways, car dealerships and lastly, gas stations. Here are some things the experts recommend to help increase your personal security:

- Always lock your vehicle's doors, even while you're driving. Never walk off leaving your keys in the vehicle.
- Park only in busy, well-lighted areas. Keep any valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk.
- Whenever possible, drive in the center lane on city streets. This reduces your chances of becoming a victim of a "bump-and-run" incident. This technique, used frequently by carjackers, involves bumping into the rear end of your vehicle. When you stop and get out to investigate any damage, the thieves forcibly take control of your car.

As with practically every other crime against property, all of the experts agree: *Do NOT RESIST* if you find yourself in a carjacking incident. Let them have the vehicle and try to notice and remember as many details as possible for the police. ❖



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## Making- Ends- Meet At Your Expense

The tougher the times the harder burglars *work* to make-ends-meet. It's estimated that a burglary is committed every ten seconds. How can you minimize your risk of becoming a victim?

One of the most effective deterrents is a clear warning that your property is protected by a security system. Displaying our window decals often causes many would-be burglars to go elsewhere.

Never leave doors or ground level windows unlocked when you are away from home. A professional burglar can be in and out of a home in just minutes. Statistically, in 70 percent of all burglary cases, the perpetrator gained access through an open door or window.

Don't leave spare keys outside. A key under the doormat, in the mailbox, on top of the door frame invites a burglar to *walk-right-in*. If you must hide a front door key outside, conceal it in some unlikely spot.

The best thing to do with a spare key is to leave it with a neighbor.

Lights and noise make all the difference at night. Your best bet when you go out for an evening is to leave the lights turned on in a normal pattern, and turn on a radio or television so your home *sounds* occupied. If you're going away on vacation, use timers, or your home automation system, to turn lights, radios and/or televisions on and off in a pattern that simulates your daily routine.

These little details are often all it takes to discourage would-be burglars and prevent them from making-ends-meet at your expense. ❖

## Dog- Friendly Behavior



Few of us are as skilled with animals as the "Dog Whisperer" on television. During the warmer summer months, two things are out-of-doors more than any other time of year: kids and dogs. When dogs bite, kids under the age of 12 are most often the ones bitten. If you have children, or grandchildren, under your supervision, here are some things you should teach them:

- Never run up to a strange dog. Many nips occur when young children run up to unfamiliar dogs that become frightened, or aren't in the mood to play.
- A wagging-tail is not always a friendly greeting. Wagging-tail or not, a dog that is barking or backing-away should be left alone.
- Let the dog initiate contact. If you, or your child, would like to pet an unfamiliar dog, always ask for the owner's permission. Stand still with one hand extended so the pet has time to sniff and accept you or your child as non-threatening.

If your child is very young, you should always stay with him or her and place yourself between your child and the dog.

If you are a pet owner, don't allow your pet to run free, especially in parks where youngsters are at play. ❖

# Cyberfraud: The New “Scam-Zone”

Experts estimate that cyberfraud currently accounts for about \$100 million a year in losses to unsuspecting victims. While that is a mere drop in the bucket when compared to the estimated \$60 billion stolen annually by fraudulent telemarketers, it's still a figure worthy of our attention.

What does cyberfraud look like on your computer screen? It often looks exactly like the oldest scams in the world. The culprits are computer scam artists—often operating out of Bombay, Hong Kong, or the former Soviet Union—who use the Internet to hawk quack health cures, phony credit-repair scams, and the oldest get-rich-quick deals in the book.



One company which recently went out of business put materials on its professional looking web site that offered the promise of quick profits for a minimal investment (ranging from \$250 to \$1,750). The scheme was basically a dressed-up pyramid scheme—an electronic chain letter that snared the company about \$6 million, while approxi-

mately 95 percent of the investors lost money.

To keep yourself and your money safe, the same old rules apply: whether it's an offer in the mail, or on the telephone, or on the Net—if it sounds too good to be true, it's probably a scam! ❖



## IS YOUR ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER A SECURITY BREACH?

Manufacturers may claim that their electronic garage door openers are high tech and state-of-the-art, but the fact is that no matter how many possible codes there may be, the vast majority of electronically operated units on the market are burglar-friendly, not burglar-proof.

Like cellular-phone thieves and computer hackers, burglars have entered the electronic age. A criminal can use an electronic “code grabber” to record and play back the signal from an automatic garage door opener from hundreds of feet away. Armed with that electronic “key to your house,” a burglar can open the garage

door—even pull-in a vehicle—then walk into your home and walk off with whatever he or she wants, often leaving no telltale signs of breaking and entering.

How can you protect yourself and still enjoy the convenience of your automatic garage door opener? One way is to make certain that the entranceway from your garage to your living quarters is protected as a primary entrance by your security system. That way, even if a criminal gains entrance to your garage, he or she still faces an armed and secure entranceway to your home. ❖

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:** During the summer you may have overnight guests or house sitters. Consider giving them a temporary arming code and password. Most systems come with this feature.

Also, please remember to test your alarm system.

Sincerely,

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

Please call for details

# 410-766-8336



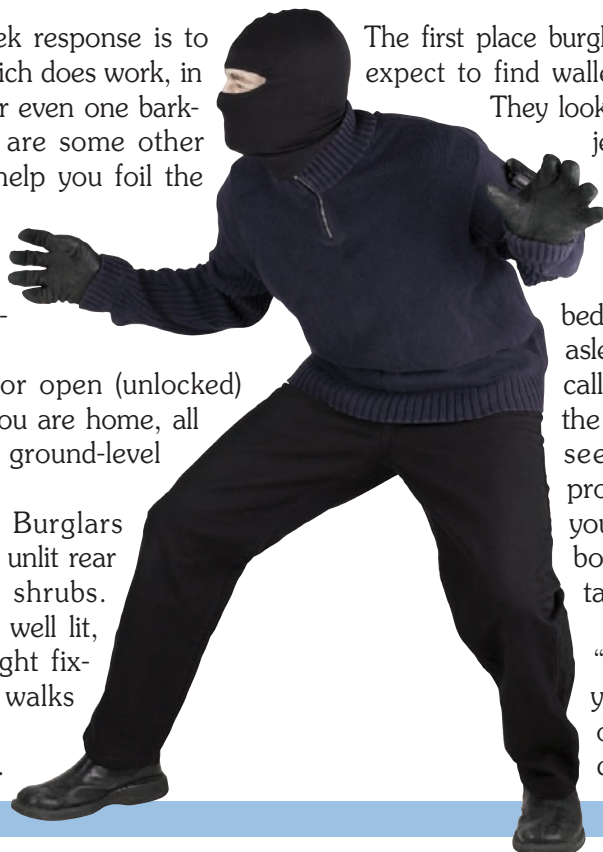
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## Ways To Foil Cat-Burglars ...

The customary, tongue-in-cheek response is to get two dogs that love to bark. Which does work, in fact, but not everyone wants two or even one barking dog in the family. So, here are some other things to keep in mind that can help you foil the would-be cat burglar.

- Arm-your-system. Even if you're only leaving your home for a short trip, always arm your security system when you leave.
- Lock-up. Burglars look for open (unlocked) doors and windows. Even when you are home, all storm doors, entrance doors and ground-level windows should be locked.
- Take-away easy access. Burglars look for risk-free entrances, like an unlit rear door surrounded by bushes and shrubs. Make certain all entranceways are well lit, or protected by motion-sensing light fixtures that turn-on when anyone walks into range.
- Have "creative" stashes.



The first place burglars go is the bedroom where they expect to find wallets, purses, car keys and jewelry.

They look in the toilet water tank for hidden jewels, and in books for a book safe.

Hide your valuables in unusual places, or, best of all, keep them in a bank safe-deposit box.

- If you see a prowler in your bedroom at night, pretend you're still asleep. If you hear one downstairs, call the police and try to get out of the house. If you return home and see a suspicious person on your property, never confront them—use your cell phone or drive to a neighbor's home to call for police assistance.

By the way, we did mention "arm-your-system," didn't we?—It's your best defense against all types of criminals and burglars, including cat burglars. ❖