

# Alarm Systems

## How Alarms can help protect your property...

### First, How do Thieves Think?

Home burglars do not give great amounts of thought to planning the job, yet understanding how they choose a target can go a long way in reducing your chances of being a victim. Thieves case out your house before they try a break in.

Is your home easy or hard to break in? Can they quickly get in, get your stuff and get out?

Burglars use observation tactics. They look for signs you are traveling or are not at home or empty houses.

They look for outside lights on 24 hours a day. They look for dark homes inside at nighttime.

They look for no car in the driveway, mail or news papers piled up or overgrown front yards.

They look for open or unlocked windows, unlocked doors, windows with easy access; those typically in the back of the house or out of sight.

They look for atvs, cars, trucks, bikes, motorcycles left unsecured.

### Keys to Alarm Success

- Recognize alarms can help protect your property.
- Alarms make the burglar think twice about trying to break in, they slow him down.
- Know alarms are now easy to install and very affordable.
- Call your Liaison or the CAG Team if you want help.



### BURGLARS FEAR MOST/ USE THIS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Typically, two things a burglar fears most are

- 1) being seen or confronted by a homeowner and
- 2) having to take too much time to complete the crime: break in, get your stuff out, get away.

You can protect your house when you are home, yet how do you protect your house when you are away and nobody is home?

Alarms can be part of your solution.

## What is going on when it comes to burglaries?

In more than 40 percent of burglaries, the thief got inside without forcing open a door or window, they also looked for a convenient window to get in, grab stuff then out a door!

Burglars want:

- Something worth stealing they can sell or pawn easily;
- Quick and easy access/in and egress/out of your house, combined with low visibility, and low noise,...get in, get your stuff, get out.
- The most likely things to be stolen in a home burglary are cash, small electronic equipment, home computers, cameras, jewelry, furs, tools and guns; anything of value they can pawn.
- Thieves look in your bedroom first, they typically know all the obvious places we hide stuff.
- The average burglar typically will spend no more than 4 or 5 minutes trying to break into your home.

■ Some burglars may spend only up to a minute attempting to gain entry into your home. This is especially true of the non professional thief who is looking for a quick hit to pay for some addiction.

## The key to your success:

- Because burglars like to work quickly, your job as a homeowner is to slow the burglar down, make it hard for a burglar to get into your home.
- When the thief is in front of your home he will be thinking about his next break-in:
  - Will your house have no good, pawnable stuff?
  - Will breaking in be difficult?
  - Will I have to make noise while breaking in?
  - Will I be seen by the homeowner or a neighbor?
  - Will it take a long time to get into your house and find the good stuff?
  - Will getting out of your house with your stuff be hard?
  - Will it take time to get away with your stuff?

If the answers to any/most of these questions are **YES**, burglars will typically move on to the next house, maybe to someone who hasn't taken actions to protect their possessions.

## Why an Alarm System Now?

- Because they work well to help defend your property:
  - **74.3% of unsuccessful burglaries** were attributed to the alarm system "scaring away" the intruder; alarms work to deter thieves.
  - An alarm is complementary and builds on other actions you can easily take to protect your property making it more difficult for thieves to get your stuff.
  - Alarms slow down the thief, make noise, makes them think twice about robbing you, raises their risk.
  - Window stickers and front yard placards make it clear you are serious and increase their chances of an unsuccessful burglary.

■ Alarms may cause the thief to just give up and look elsewhere, as the time they have to steal your stuff is reduced when the alarm goes off.

### **Because they are easy and quick to install:**

■ Alarms today are wireless, easy to install, if you can use a hammer and a screw driver, you can install one.

■ No need to contract with large, more expensive companies, unless you prefer to.

### **Because the cost is reasonable:**

■ New, better technology has lowered prices significantly. The cost is much lower than in the past, and is less than the cost to replace that tv or firearm you just had stolen.

■ Look at the alarm cost in light of the value of your family items that could get stolen or the cost to replace tv's, stereos, electronic games, guns thieves like to grab, or the mental cost/ violation to your family of having a successful break-in.

## **Alarm Systems Today**

- Easy to install, screwdriver and small tools, done in a few hours.

- Buying is easy, many internet companies provide the components.

- Cost effective, prices start at less than \$200. Systems are wireless, not wired, so installation is simple, easy, quick.

- Sensors take batteries, not hard wired. Flexible, you can add more sensors later. Protect your doors, windows, and inside the house.

- Easy to use: On/Off with a key fob, no running to the panel to type in a code.

- You can add central station monitoring for \$9-15 per month, burglary and fire.

- Install front yard signs, window stickers so the thief is on notice there is an alarm and robbing you will be more difficult.

### **What are the Alarm System Components?**

■ A small base unit, plugs into 120v outlet, mounts on a wall.

■ Key fobs for on/off.

■ Sensors: Door sensors, Window sensors, Glass breaking sensors, Motion sensors, work even with pets in the house.

■ Internal horn included,

■ External horn optional,

■ Use your phone line to connect with central station, or use cellular phone unit.

### **Next Steps You Can Easily Take**

■ Get information from the Internet and local large companies: ADT, Brinks, etc. Chat with the big companies, see what they offer, compare costs to buying on the internet.

■ Talk to your friends, neighbors, understand what they may have. Call the CAG Team, or your Liaison, they may have some experience with alarms.

- Search for “home alarm systems”, “Home Alarms” on the internet, take a look at the companies, such as [www.homesecuritystore.com](http://www.homesecuritystore.com), and others. Most sites have easy to read information you need to map out and buy a system. Look at the features and costs. Talk to their sales people to obtain information on what best fits your needs, your home, and budget.
  
- Decide on what you need, what you can afford to start, Do a quick map/layout of your house, define the zones you want to protect. For door/window protection, For glass break sensors, For room, hall protection, then decide: Central station connect or not.
  
- Don't forget the window stickers!
  
- Talk with your Liaison, or the CAG Team, they can help you get started.
  
- Don't be one of the many families who install alarms only **after** they have a break-in.