

Cracks in Your Home Defense That Burglars Hope You Will Never Discover

By Paul Eisenstadt

Amazingly, despite more than 4,000 break-ins nationwide daily, many people brazenly flaunt home security by leaving their doors or windows unlocked (or locking them only at bedtime). Never targeted yet, they're either blissfully ignorant, lazy, or defiantly careless. Crime survivors, however, think very differently. They know better.

Poor home defense leads to more than 8,000 home intrusions every day – either by sneakily quiet burglars or violently loud invaders. The U.S. Department of Justice says up to 30 percent of all homes will be burgled or invaded at least once in the next 20 years. Maybe that's an overestimate but even half that number should concern you.

Yet most people are careless with home defense – both in their behavior and in fortifying their homes with hardware and electronics. They rely on sheer luck that their lazy habits and flimsy hardware will protect

them. “Hey, it’s a safe neighborhood. Nothing has ever happened around here.” Yet!

Burglars usually avoid occupied homes but the growing numbers of invaders actually want you at home so they can get your wallet, car keys, and hidden caches – making home invasions more lucrative than street robberies and more violent. These vicious robbers, rapists, and killers, knowing that the home itself hides the crime from neighbors and passersby, often become frenzied with power, terrorizing, raping, torturing. The victims never fully recover.

However, home burglaries and invasions are the most preventable of all crimes.

Here are the cracks in your home defense that burglars hope you'll never discover:

Most burglars enter through unlocked (or weak) doors or windows!

Continued on page 20

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On the "Lighter" Side

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 ple stop me to let me know that I have a message. If I am at a stoplight, the driver in the car next to me flags me down to explain what the flashing inside my cabin means, and that I should pick up my messages. I have no peace and quiet or peace and calm. And as long as there are cell phones there will never be peace on earth, either.

Have you noticed all those people with blinking blue ears? How can they ever get off a call? I don't think this is a new idea, but I have developed a technique to end calls. "I'm going through a dead zone and my cell phone may cut you off," or "Mom, if we get cut off it's because I am on my cell phone," or "I have to get off the phone, my battery is dying." I don't feel so bad since everyone else is using these excuses also.

I had a startling cellular experience last week. Shirley and I were celebrating my birthday at a very posh restaurant, and after two glasses of a terrific pinot noir I had to use the bathroom. While I was standing at the urinal doing what you are supposed to do while standing at a urinal, someone called out to me from the stall next to the washbasin just a few feet away. (I'll save you the trouble of guessing. No, it was not Senator Larry Craig from Idaho thinking he was at an airport toilet.) The voice from the stall called out, "Say, what did you say your name was?"

As I started to answer, still standing, the voice asked more firmly, "Listen buddy, if you don't answer me I am going to make sure you never forget me." Now I was trembling. I'm sure you know how hard it is to function when you are scared to death, especially while in a bathroom.

"I...I...I..." now I was stuttering as well as not functioning. And then I heard, "Listen, I am going to hang up and end this call unless you tell me why you filed charges and how much you expect me to pay!"

I was relieved, but not that relieved (if you catch my drift) and I let out a noticeable sigh. I started thinking about how dangerous these cell phones really are. Actually, they are more dangerous than we think. Not only is there a lack of peace and quiet, or even peace period, but also I think cell phones will cause an increase in prostate problems. At least that's the way it looked from where I was standing.

About the Author - Barry Pascal, our recently deposed Honorary Sheriff and formerly overthrown Honorary Mayor owned Northridge Pharmacy for 32 years and is now retired. He has written seven comedy books and writes a humorous column for the California Pharmacists Association Journal. He is currently looking for a psycho-urologist who will treat patients standing up rather than lying down.

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(ti from page 12)

Anything to help them climb to a less secure window, such as latticework, tree limbs, a vehicle, or unchained patio furniture or garbage cans to climb on.

Hiding spots provided by unlighted areas, flimsy enclosed porches, shrubbery, or privacy fences and walls.

An attached garage is a bonanza if it's easy to get into. Hidden, they'll use your tools to penetrate the door to your house.

Screens are easy to quietly slice and reach through to unlock a door or climb through a window.

Homes without dogs or nosy neighbors.

Secluded homes without especially extensive security products.

Noises (such as heavy traffic or other machinery) help prowlers

Protection Alarms Inc offers residential and commercial security systems that will provide deterrence and early warning if an attempted break in occurs. A comprehensive burglar alarm system combined with central station monitoring will provide peace of mind and a quick response if a problem occurs.

External video surveillance will alert you as to who is outside your home and provide law enforcement with images that can help apprehend the offender.

Security Products CANNOT be guaranteed to prevent any crime - but will serve you well if combined with common sense safety precautions.

Paul Eisenstadt is President and CEO of Protection Alarms Inc., and is on the Board of Directors for the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Los Angeles Security & Alarm Association and the West Valley PALS. He can be reached at 866-359-6555 or Paul@ProtectionAlarms.com

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Team in Training Program

(Continued from page 19)

"It has been amazing to have someone who completely understands everything that goes into training for a marathon and fundraising for TNT!" Lauren said. "It has also been really cool to share in each other's accomplishments and very rewarding to be able to make a difference together."

Through TNT, participants receive a four-to-five month comprehensive training program, experienced coaching and travel to great destinations. In return, participants give help and hope to thousands of patients battling leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Members have the choice of preparing to run or walk a full or half marathon, cycle

a century ride, participate in a triathlon, or take part in a hike adventure. Participants are also given advice on how to meet their fundraising goals.

For more information about TNT call (800) 482-TEAM, visit: www.teamintraining.org or contact the Greater Los Angeles Chapter, at (310) 342-5800.

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