



## **Commercial Burglary Prevention**

Commercial burglaries are often crimes of opportunity that occur after your business closes. With a few simple steps, you can take an active role in reducing your risk of becoming a victim.

First, consider how your property looks from the burglar's view. The outward appearance and security of the building may determine if a business will become a target. Inspect every door and window because they all represent a potential security breach. An unlocked door or window is an opportunity for burglars to strike.

Second, establish a closing routine or check list to make sure employees lock doors, windows and set the alarms. Establish a rapport with nearby business owners to discuss problems or nuisances and then identify solutions that benefit everyone.

Here are a few suggestions for building security:

### **○ Doors & Locks**

- Secure doors, windows, skylights and other openings with high quality locks.
- Double cylinder, dead-bolt locks with one-inch throw bolts are preferred for doors. (Check local building codes for acceptable door locks)
- Install cylinder guards and strike plates to slow down forced entry and prevent "jimmying".
- Use heavy-duty solid construction doors for all rear entrances.

### **○ Windows**

- Ensure all windows are closed and locked at the end of the business day.
- Remove all small electronic equipment including laptop computers from desktops and place them in a secure location.
- Secure all laptop computers to desk during business hours.

### **○ Lighting**

- Lighting is one of the best crime deterrents.
- Use bright exterior lighting around perimeter of buildings including all parking lots.

○ **Alarm Systems**

- **Alarms are an entry detection and notification tool – not a physical barrier.**
- **Hire a reputable Alarm System Company which best fits your needs.**
- **Install alarm system signage in clearly visible areas.**

○ **Security Camera Systems**

- **Surveillance cameras help prevent crime by creating the perception of an increased risk in committing an offense.**
- **Making the presence of a camera system highly visible creates a psychological deterrent to would be criminals.**
- **Criminals caught on tape can be identified by police officers through facial recognition and physical appearance.**
- **This identification acts as indisputable evidence in court that the suspect is indeed guilty.**
- **Cameras also help identify any potential witnesses to the crime.**