

For Immediate Release

For More Information – Contact
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Time Change for Burglars

Bellaire, Texas (February 24, 2010). . . . Bellaire police have noticed a trend in residential burglaries for 2010. In January approximately 80% of residential burglaries occurred during the early evening, most times have been narrowed down to between 5 PM and 7 PM. The trend continues, as of mid-February there were three residential burglaries reported and at least two appear to have occurred in this time period.

Residential burglaries have historically been considered a day time crime for the most part. This was due to during the day, people are at work and kids are in school so homes are empty. As homes were empty, they were an easy target.

It is unknown what is driving this current trend. It could be that this is a period when suspicious activity could actually be less noticeable. An increase in traffic, people not quite home from work yet, parents leaving for school activity, and so on.

Most burglars do not just go up to a house and break in. They will attempt to determine if there is anybody in the house. The most common way to do this has always been to walk up and knock on the door. If nobody answers, their assumption is that nobody is home. If they want to break into your house, they will then force a door or window open.

If you answer the door, they will have a story for you as to why they are there. It might be that they have the wrong address, they are looking for somebody, or they may claim to have a product or service to offer. They usually won't say, "...sorry to bother you, I am a burglar looking for a house to break into..."

If somebody you don't know knocks on your door, you can answer through the door if that makes you feel safer. You don't have to open the door. If they request information from you or claim to be looking for something, you can offer to call the police to assist them.

Most people that may come to your house and knock on your door are not criminals, but some may be. It is not rude to be cautious.

Also, a burglar may not arrive by vehicle, but be dropped off a short distance away from the house they intend to break into. A strange vehicle backed up in a driveway will draw the attention of neighbors. Burglars will often break into a house, stack property they intend to steal by a door. When they are ready to go, they will call their partners by cell phone to come pick them, and the loot, up. The suspects' vehicle will be at the house for only a few seconds, reducing the likelihood that it will be seen and reported.

If you see activity that you consider suspicious, you should call the Bellaire Police Department at 713- 668-0487 and report such. When calling please describe the person's activity that you find suspicious as well as a description of the person and vehicle they may be driving.

For additional information on steps you can take to better secure your home, contact Community Resource Officer Tim Quimby at 713-662-8103.

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