

☛ **HOME INVASIONS
HAVE A PLAN**

Torrington Police Department
 Detective Kevin Tieman
 8/15/2007

Overview

- ☛ This slide presentation is an outline only
- ☛ It does not contain all of the material talked about during the discussion nights held in Torrington.
- ☛ Any suggestions here are suggestions only and if you do not agree with them- don't use them

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Overview

- ☛ There is no absolute guarantee that you will not be a victim of a crime in the future.
- ☛ These discussions have been started to try and better protect ourselves which will hopefully lower our chances of being that victim here in Torrington.

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Discussion Goals

- ☛ Discuss what Home Invasions are: Definitions
- ☛ Examples in the area
- ☛ Why are they occurring?
- ☛ Plan to be a victim
- ☛ The "Perfect House"
- ☛ Protecting against the "Perfect House"

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Definitions

- ☛ Basic definitions:
- ☛ Burglary- "...entering of a dwelling/building with the intent to commit a crime."
- ☛ Larceny- "...taking of property, money etc or what many people refer to as "stealing"
- ☛ Robbery- the commission of a larceny and use or threaten the use of force to accomplish the larceny.

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Definitions

- ☛ Home Invasions are a form of armed robbery involving the entering of a home and a face to face encounter with the victim. This will therefore include all three: Larceny, Burglary, and Robbery at a minimum
- ☛ Home Invasions violate both you "sanctuary" and your person at the same time.

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Home Invasions

- ☛ OVERVIEW OF RECENT HOME INVASIONS

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Home Invasions

- ☛ TORRINGTON CONNECTICUT
- ☛ CHESHIRE CONNECTICUT
- ☛ BLOOMFIELD CONNECTICUT
- ☛ MILFORD CONNECTICUT
- ☛ SOUTH WINDSOR

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Torrington Ct

- ☛ Prospect Place on 8/15/2007 Torrington Ct
- ☛ 2am
- ☛ Open back door
- ☛ Prior knowledge of home
- ☛ Armed with a knife
- ☛ Compliant victim

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Torrington Ct

- ⊗ Suspect left residence
- ⊗ Proceeded to do the same thing at East Main Shell gas station
- ⊗ Victim also compliant

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Cheshire CT

- ⊗ Entering of the home during the morning hours/predawn
- ⊗ Alarm system possibly not on
- ⊗ Door/window possibly open
- ⊗ Victims caught off guard

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Cheshire Ct

- ⊗ Family immediately overwhelmed
- ⊗ What can we take from this awful tragedy?

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Cheshire Ct

- ⊗ At night: lock all doors and windows
- ⊗ Turn alarm system on if you have one
- ⊗ Phones in every room (bedroom)
- ⊗ ***Have a plan with your family- this will be discussed in depth later on in discussion

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BLOOMFIELD CT

- ⊗ 7/19/2007
- ⊗ Reported that a male and female arrived home and were attacked in their driveway by three men with handguns.
- ⊗ Victims were then bound with duct tape and forced into their house

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BLOOMFIELD CT

- ⊗ -suspects ransacked house looking for money.
- ⊗ Suspects left with 2 vehicles ,cash ,and electronics.
- ⊗ Victims were not harmed any further

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BLOOMFIELD CT

- ⊗ Once your are incapacitated your choices have now disappeared
- ⊗ The goal is to lower your chances of these suspects choosing our homes or lengthen the time it takes them to gain entry

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MILFORD CT

Three males entered through a side, open basement window at 2 a.m.

They then proceeded to the second floor and tied up the lone female in the house with a phone cord.

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MILFORD CT

- ⊗ The woman was struck in the face with a hammer or the end of a firearm for an unknown reason
- ⊗ Suspects then searched house for money and drugs. Investigations led Officers to believe that suspects targeted the wrong house

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MILFORD CT

- ☞ Suspects ended up taking savings bonds, cash, SS #'s and computers.

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SOUTH WINDSOR CT

- ☞ 9:30 in the evening 2 males entered the home and began taking televisions, cash (\$6,000.00), jewelry and camera's. They were armed with handguns.
- ☞ Homeowner came home during the burglary and began fighting suspects who then fled scene

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SOUTH WINDSOR CT

- ☞ Victim was later identified as a known drug dealer in town and the home invasion was a result of this illegal activity.
- ☞ Victim did receive injuries as a result of his fighting with the assailants. He did survive.

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Home Invasions

- ☞ Motives for Home Invasions:
 - ☞ Money
 - ☞ Drugs
 - ☞ Personal belongings: cash, computer items, audio visual equipment
 - ☞ Random acts of violence

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Home Invasions

- ☞ What were these perpetrators looking for in the example cases?
- ☞ Money and drugs are reportedly the more common motives for these types of crimes.
- ☞ Torrington-many times siblings involved in drug activity- (unknown to parents.) Parents house is then burglarized as a result of this drug activity

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Home Invasions

- ☞ History of Torrington prior to today-
- ☞ 2002 Home Invasion Prospect Street
- ☞ Related to gang activity –
- ☞ Tied two males up, stole money-

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Home Invasions

- ☞ Torrington has been hit mainly with home Burglaries, i.e smash and grabs
- ☞ Drug related, get in and take enough to keep addiction going for next few days
- ☞ People known to you tend to be the first to be considered in the investigation

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Home Invasions

- ☞ Recommendations on what not to have in your home-

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Home Invasions

- ☞ Recommendations on what not to keep in your house:
 - ☞ 1) Large amounts of cash
 - ☞ -(not only for the home invasion reason but for the "solvability" of the theft is almost zero. Cash is hard to track.
 - ☞ 2) Savings bonds

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Home Invasions

- ⊕ 3) SS # cards, birth certificates, Personal data
- ⊕ Utilize a bank and safety deposit boxes at outside institutions

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Home Invasions

- ⊕ The "Perfect House"

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊕ What is the "perfect house" or scenario for a Burglar?
- ⊕ House is easily accessible-unlocked
- ⊕ House is hidden from road or other houses
- ⊕ Escape routes are easily obtained, highways, back roads etc.
- ⊕ House has no obstacles- alarms, dogs

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊕ Home is easily accessible;
- ⊕ Doors/windows unlocked
- ⊕ Garage doors left open

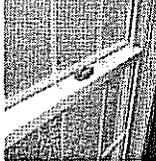
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"The Perfect House"

- ⊕ Windows failed to be latched

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Unlatched Window



- ⊕ A suspected burglar can easily see from outside that this window is not secure

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊕ Air conditioner installations (picture)

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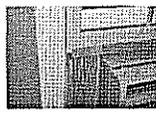
Improperly installed AC



- ⊕ On the surface this AC looks to be installed properly

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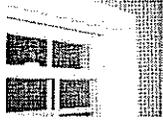
Window AC



- ⊕ We then see that the AC is not secured to the window as instructed during installation.

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Window AC



- ⊛ A locking bar is seen here on the window to prevent someone from raising the AC and entering the home

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Garage doors not secured

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Windows left open when no one is home, with only screen as deterrent (picture)
- ⊛ Common reason for this- "...I wanted to get some air in my house when I was gone"

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Window left open



- ⊛ The only barrier holding out a suspected criminal is a screen

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Basement style doors are often unsecured from the outside and also not latched from the inside-

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Basement windows usually old and falling apart. Easily pushed in-

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Sliding doors are not reinforced with a piece of wood or a bar-

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Protecting against the Perfect House:
- ⊛ Lock doors both exterior and interior, when you are away and when you are home-
- ⊛ Secure all windows all the time

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"The Perfect House"

- ⊛ Use the locking stick for the air conditioner/sliding doors and also use screws to secure the device into the window as instructed.
- ⊛ Garage doors need to either be reinforced or replaced. If you replace them either have very small windows high above the ground or no windows at all-

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"The Perfect House"

- ☛ Install deadbolts and/or door chains to increase time it would take for suspect to enter.

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"The Perfect House"

- ☛ Lock cars inside garage and in driveway. Do not leave you keys inside you car in your garage
- ☛ Lock any recreational vehicles, boats etc. Causing a suspect to have to take even 10 more seconds to accomplish his goals might either deter him entirely or at least give you the needed time to address the issue via 911, flee, or other means-

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"The Perfect House"

- ☛ Alarm systems
- ☛ Including clear stickers in the windows and doors , or a sign in the lawn indicating the protection company.
- ☛ Surveillance cameras, (under \$300.00- four camera systems online)

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"The Perfect House"

- ☛ Dogs: Just their presence alone can be enough to push the burglar to another location- Place a sign in the window that a dog is on you premises.

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When do they occur?

- ☛ Residential Burglaries -Daytime hours are when these crime occur the most, while most are working or at school. Home Invasion tend to be during the early morning hours

Summer months of July and August are the most popular while Winter, February is the slowest month

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Why a Plan?

- ☛ We need to try and increase the amount of time that it would take a suspect to enter a home or gain control of the homeowner so that the victim can either call 911, gather up their children and flee, or prepare to confront the suspects.(Owners decision)

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Have a Plan

- ☛ Plan for being a victim of a home invasion and you will be that much more prepared if it happens.

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EXAMPLES

- ☛ Children- If they see a stranger in their home, talk to them on what they are to do. Suggestion- Have them immediately leave the residence and go directly to their neighbors home. They should then dial 911.
- ☛ Talk to neighbors ahead of time for this situation

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EXAMPLES

- ☛ Explain to everyone in the home that dialing 911, (Torrington has an excellent policy on this) mandates a police officer to respond to your home whether or not you say anything on the phone. Dial the number and leave the phone on the counter-

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ Having multiple cell phones with home.
- ☞ New phones have a base then can have up to 5 headsets that only need a power source, not a phone line. Place these phones in strategic places in home for easy access, including bedrooms

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ Have a safe room established. Have a code word in your home which, if said out loud, any member able to get away should flee to this room immediately. This room should have a cordless phone, and access to the outside, possibly with a "fire ladder" if on the second floor.

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ If someone is at your door and you do not know them, whether an adult or not, don't open the door. Grab a phone and watch them from another viewpoint and see what they are doing. Call the police.
- ☞ Watch out for suspects acting like repairmen or servicemen. If you didn't call a service man then there should not be one at the door.

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ Be alert that if someone is at your door, there is probably someone else entering your home from another location.
- ☞ That is why not answering the door might be the best answer.

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ Make sure you and your family pay attention to what is going on around them. Do not be oblivious to people that are near you, cars that are parked near you house, etc. Active participation in watching out for criminals will drastically lower your chances of becoming a victim. I.E. CRIME WATCH PROGRAMS

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ If you choose to confront someone with a firearm, call the police immediately upon having the opportunity. Stay on the phone with the police and listen to the instructions of the Officer carefully.
- ☞ The police will not know at first who is the victim and who is the suspect.

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EXAMPLES

- ☞ Having some type of alert for people coming on to your property/ Driveway alarms
- ☞ Different alarm systems
- ☞ Motion lights/ cameras/ Voice alert example

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What are they looking for?

- ☞ Quick turn-around items
- ☞ Many of these crimes, at least in Torrington, are drug related, so suspects need items that they can easily turn into cash. Non-traceable items are the best but mainly electronics, video games, audio/visual devices, jewelry guns, watches

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What are they looking for?

- ☞ Most often you will have the same suspect committing 8-10 burglaries in the same area on a nightly basis, as they take only enough to satisfy their addiction for a day or so.
- ☞ They want easy access, in and out and a lot of the time they do not want confrontations with homeowners.

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Securing valuables

- ☛ If you choose to have a weapon or some type of valuables in your home consider the following:

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Lock boxes



- ☛ This is a wall mounted "gun locker". A key pad system and a key entry system can be used.

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Possessions within the home

- ☛ Mark your items with permanent engravings
- ☛ If you choose to be "flashy" with your purchases and or your belongings, not only will your neighbors know what you have, but also will the criminals.

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Possessions within the home

- ☛ If you just bought that 60 inch LCD flat panel TV, burn the box in a burn pile, or tear the box up and place it within a garbage bag or bags. If you leave this out at the curb, someone might see the box and now have a desire to take it from you.

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Possessions within the home

- ☛ Take an inventory of you valuable items. Digital picture technology allows us to take cheap pictures. Make a file and a backup disk of these items for later use
- ☛ Having pictures will be useful to police if you are a victim. In addition to insurance companies

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Possessions within the home

Do not store your valuable jewelry in a jewelry box on you dresser. This will be the first item that a would be suspect will take-

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Possessions within the home

- ☛ Do not leave you wallet or pocket book lying on the kitchen counters for suspected burglars to see as they look inside the front door.
- ☛ Again don't have a wallet or purse full of cash- you'll never see it again. Also have a list of all items within your wallet of purse in case it is taken. AGAIN PLAN TO BE A VICTIM!!

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Weapons

- ☛ Obtaining a pistol permit
- ☛ Regulations for buying a gun
- ☛ Is having a gun the right choice for your specific household/Family? You must decide

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Self Defense

- ☛ Taking part in a self defense class
- ☛ Suggestion only- Having children involved in a self defense or martial art type class/ discipline, respect training-

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Chemical Sprays



- ⇒ Chemical deterrents, Mace.
- ⇒ *(hold onto while running- example Litchfield incident)

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Conclusion/Summary

- ⇒ Awareness- post 9/11/2001 was high....now has dropped off. It needs to be brought back up-
- ⇒ Home security
- ⇒ Have a plan at your home
- ⇒ Talk to you kids-

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Conclusion

- ⇒ QUESTIONS

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