



City of Portland

Burglary Prevention - Residential

A residential burglary is committed when there is unlawful entry of a residential structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft. Burglary is a non-confrontational crime that occurs when the home is unoccupied. In most cases, burglars forcibly enter through doors, windows, skylights, or other openings by prying them open, smashing glass windows or doors, forcing the locks open, or kicking doors in. Offenders typically target property that is portable, vulnerable, and can be easily exchanged.

What can make your home a target?

Burglaries may seem random in occurrence; however, they usually involve a selective process. Burglars generally choose locations based on a number of key factors:

- Occupancy
- Visibility or survivability
- Accessibility
- Vulnerability or security
- Goods sold
- Ease of access

Preventing residential burglary

Checking your property and habits for preventative measures is the key to successful burglary prevention and reduces your risk of becoming a victim. Use the checklist below to see where you may need or could make improvements for better burglary prevention:

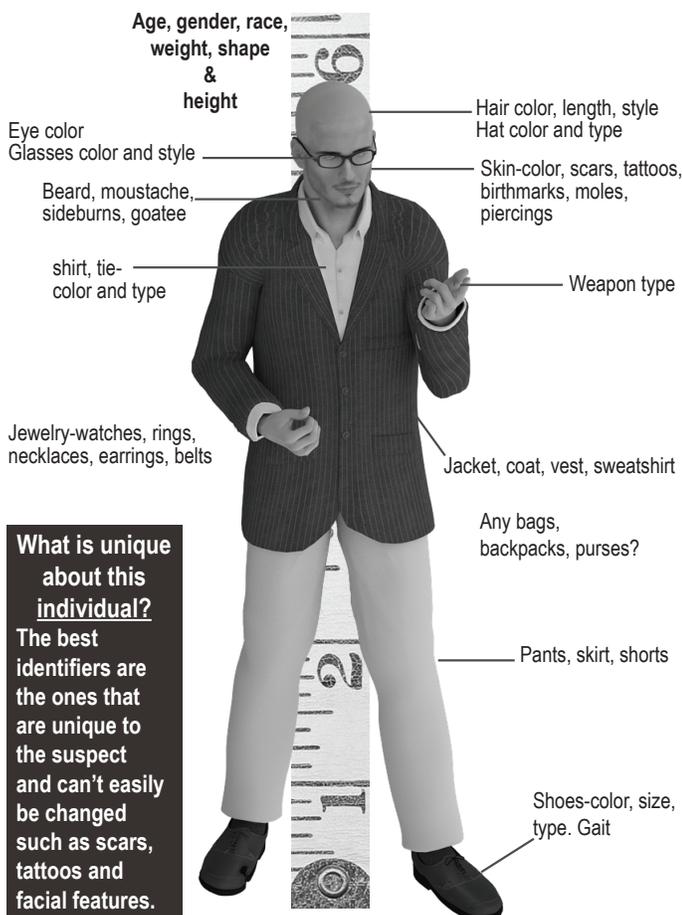
- Security cameras are active and strategically placed around the property.
- Valuables are kept in a private and secured location.
- Lighting is maintained.
- Landscaping is maintained so that it does not impair visibility or provide hiding places.
- A sound based alarm systems is installed.
- Lights are on a timer to appear as if you are home at different times.
- Entry-points are secured upon leaving (e.g. windows and doors).
- Shrubbery is selectively placed under windows and/or access points to deter a burglar from that point of entry.
- Trash cans are secured and in a well lit area to deter public access.
- All surveillance recordings are kept for at least one week.
- Garages and sheds are locked and secured at all times.
- A home inventory is secured in a safe location (e.g. safe or lock-box).

Identify suspicious activity

Suspicious activity is any behavior that causes alarm. Behavior is what makes someone's activities suspicious, not their appearance, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or housing status. These details will be important to relay to the police when describing the person(s) involved in suspicious activity, but shouldn't be used as the basis of determining whether something is suspicious. We encourage community members and neighbors to have a healthy vigilance over their environment by being aware of what is going on around them and responding to those cues that indicate a problem or the potential for one. Suspicious activity can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Slow moving vehicle without lights.
- Vehicle driving slowly, and aimlessly, back and forth on a street.
- Loitering in front of houses without entering or engaging the occupant(s).
- Multiple visits to a home (multiple times in one day) without visiting or engaging the occupant(s).
- Person loading valuables into a vehicle or onto a bike in a rushed manner.
- Someone attempting to forcibly enter a locked entrance.
- Person running away with items of value (e.g. TV, stereo, packages).

If you see a burglary in progress call 9-1-1 and do not intervene. When you call for police assistance, describing what you have seen accurately allows a responding officer(s) to know specifically what they are looking for and where to look for it. Describe one suspect at a time from head to toe. For identifying vehicles use the C.Y.M.B.O.L.S. method: Color, Year, Make, Body style, Other marks/damages, License, and State. The charts below provide examples of key features for identifying persons and vehicles.

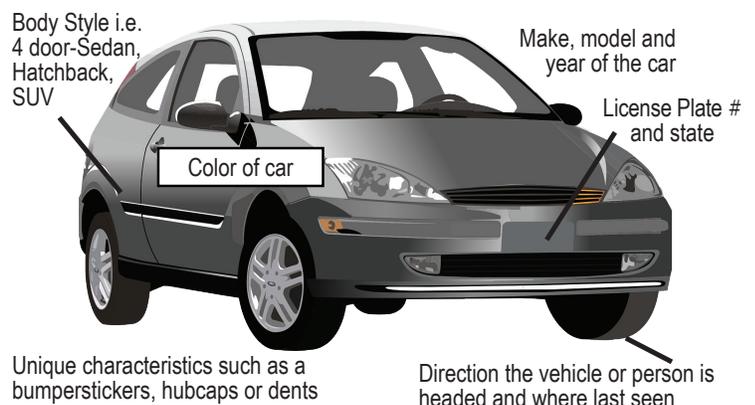


What is unique about this individual?

The best identifiers are the ones that are unique to the suspect and can't easily be changed such as scars, tattoos and facial features.

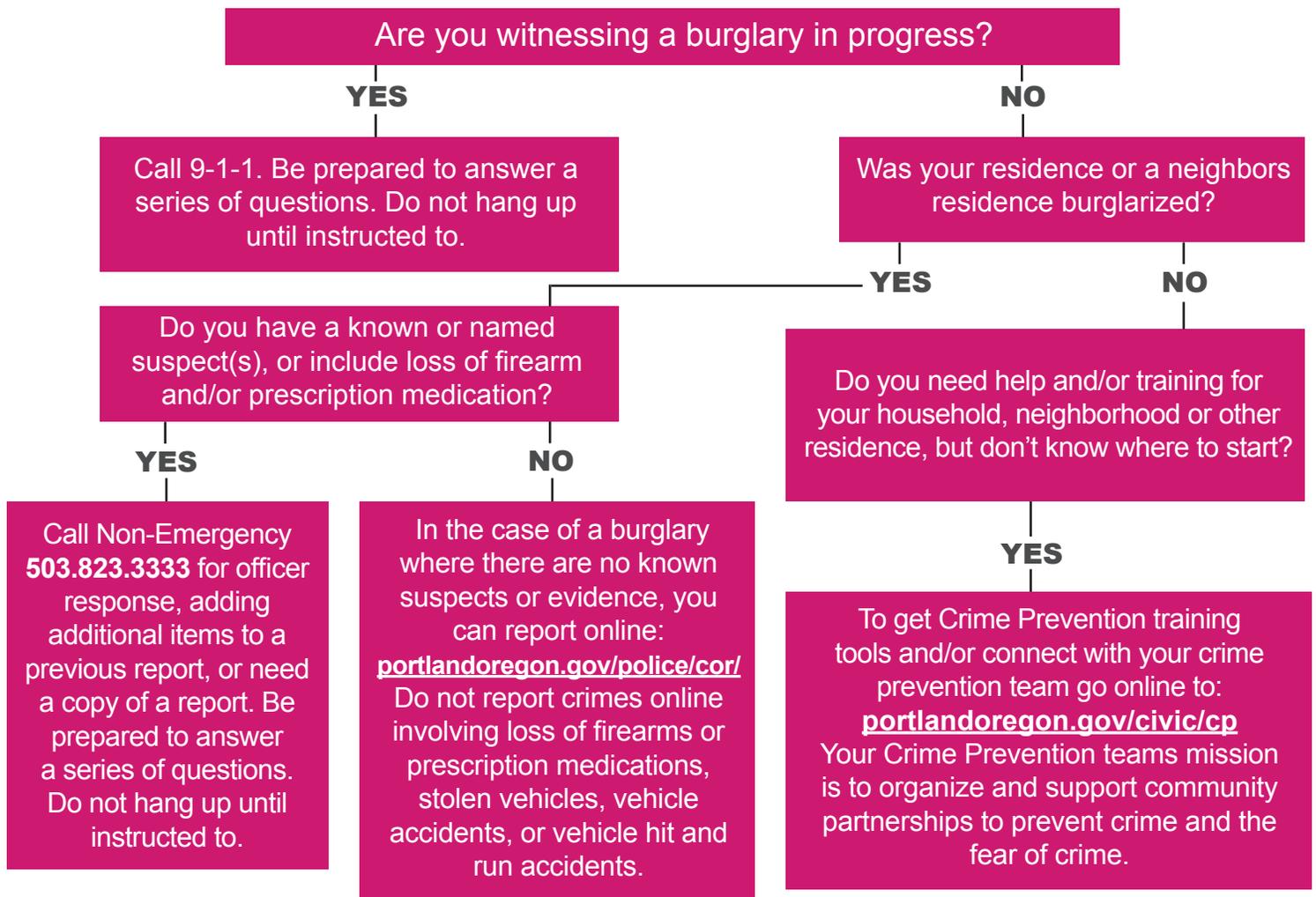
Note: if you do not have evidence of the burglary (e.g. witness, surveillance etc.) still file a police report. Report crime every time, with or without evidence.

Is the suspect walking or driving a car, motorcycle or bicycle? Take note of:



Reporting Burglary

Robbery and burglary often get confused, knowing the difference is essential. Robbery is defined as: taking another's property by force. Threat of force or putting the victim in fear of immediate harm (e.g. stick-up, mugging). Burglary is defined as: unlawfully entering a home, business or other structure with intent to commit a theft or other crime. The following chart will give you assistance in proper protocol and response to a burglary. If you see anything that is clearly dangerous or life-threatening, or you have strong suspicions of either, call 9-1-1 immediately.



Additional Resources

How to obtain a case number: The officer will provide you with a case number at the time of the report. If you don't receive a case number, call Portland Police Records Division at 503.823.0043.

How to get a copy of a police report: Purchase copies by calling the Portland Police Records Division at 503.823.0041 or file a request online at portlandoregon.gov/police/article/561936.

Report additional stolen items: You can report additional items online by visiting portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/ and click on the link for "Additional Property Information" or call the Non-Emergency at 503.823.3333.

If you locate your stolen property at a pawnshop, yard sale or online: Contact Non-Emergency at 503.823.3333 and request an officer. You will need relevant information to establish ownership, such as an original police report, serial numbers, receipts, etc.

Reporting Toolkit

Is it an immediate or life-threatening emergency?

YES

Dial 911 - Be prepared to provide information (i.e. location, suspect details, involved persons). Do not hang up until instructed to do so.

NO

Are you calling to report a crime or suspicious activity?

YES

Does the incident involve any of the following:

- Known suspect(s)
- Stolen vehicles
- Domestic violence
- Vehicular accidents
- Firearms
- Hit and runs
- RX Medication
- Require police presence

NO

NO

YES

Report online:
portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/

Call Portland Non-Emergency
at (503) 823-3333.

Are you reporting livability issues and violations (e.g. campsites, potholes, illegal/abandoned vehicles)?

YES

NO

Go to pdxreporter.org and file a report (you will need a portlandoregon.gov account to login).

Do you need help and/or training for your business, neighborhood or residence, but don't know where to start?

YES

To get more training and connect with your Crime Prevention Team go online to:
portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp

Your Crime Prevention Team's mission is to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime. You can also find online resources and training tools on the Office of Community & Civic Life, Crime Prevention Program website portlandoregon.gov/civic/cpadvice.



The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод
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