



BURGLARY PREVENTION FOR JEWELRY STORES

SDPD Crime Prevention

August 22, 2016

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This paper contains tips for preventing burglaries of jewelry stores, i.e. when a thief breaks into a closed store with the intent to steal merchandise. These tips can help improve the security of your business. The SDPD Community Relations Officer (CRO) in your area will be glad to assist you in this with a free business security survey. SDPD division addresses and phone numbers are listed at the end of this paper.

General crime prevention tips for preventing retail store burglaries and robberies are available on the Prevention Tips page of the SDPD website at www.sandiego.gov/police/services/prevention/tips. They deal with protecting assets, preventing unauthorized entry, deterring crimes, apprehending robbers, recovering stolen property, and what to do if you are robbed. Much of this applies to jewelry stores and will not be repeated in this paper. Other tips for businesses on the SDPD website deal with preventing check and credit/debit card fraud, computer crimes, employee theft, and shoplifting.

For jewelry-specific crime prevention material, jewelers should consider joining the Jewelers Security Alliance (JSA). Member benefits include the following: a copy of JSA's manual of jewelry security, weekly e-mail crime alerts, wanted bulletins on dangerous jewelry criminals, crime prevention bulletins on effective security procedures, invitations to special crime prevention seminars and events, access to an internal theft hotline to which employees can anonymously report crime information, access to training videos on crime prevention, unlimited telephone consulting assistance from JSA experts, etc.

There are two kinds of burglaries: (1) smash/grab/run and (2) safe/vault. The first kind happens too fast for the burglars to be caught in an alarm response. The best way to prevent them is to store as much merchandise as possible in safes and vaults and protect glass doors and windows with physical barriers. The second kind takes much longer and the burglars can be caught if the alarm system is effective.

PREVENTING SMASH/GRAB/RUN BURGLARIES

- Remove all merchandise from show windows when the business is closed.
- Store as much merchandise, including repairs, as possible in safes or vaults.
- Consider using a bank safe deposit box to store excess merchandise.
- Put lower-valued items in a locked cabinet or drawer out of sight if your safes or vaults can't store all your merchandise.
- Do not cover showcases. This gives burglars the impression that they contain something worth stealing.
- Use an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed burglary-resistant glazing material in windows, doors, and showcases. These materials include laminated, tempered, and wired glass, and some plastics. Security films should also be considered. Any of these materials will slow burglars down.
- Test your burglar alarm system periodically to make sure it works properly. Have it inspected and check at least annually.

- Install folding security gates or roll-down shutters inside windows and doors. A burglar would have to cut through the bars or slats after breaking through a window or door while the alarm is going off. They will also slow burglars down.

PREVENTING SAFE/VAULT BURGLARIES

- Store merchandise in a UL-listed burglar-resistant safe or vault. Standing safes should be securely anchored to the floor. The back should be against a wall so it will not be accessible.
- Install a UL-certified burglar alarm system.
- Confirm that the communication path between your store and the central station alarm monitoring facility is secure, i.e., that the line cannot be cut.
- Confirm that the alarm system can detect attempts to penetrate through walls, ceilings, doors, windows, or Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) ducts.
- Respond to all alarm signals. Don't assume a signal is a false alarm. Burglars could be testing or interfering with your line. Never let alarm signals, telephone trouble, or other disturbances go unexplained.
- Hire an alarm service company that provides an alarm response service, and provide it with keys or other access means to your store so it can also conduct a thorough investigation of the interior of your store. An investigation of the exterior of your store will not disclose the presence of burglars who have gotten inside without breaking any doors or windows.
- Provide your alarm service company with cell phone numbers for yourself and/or designated employees so you and/or an employee can be called in an alarm situation.
- Limit the number of employees who have keys to your store.
- Change locks on doors and combinations of safes and vaults whenever an employee with access to them resigns or is terminated.
- Tell your alarm company not to approve any opening of the store during non-business hours without your authorization. And do not open the reopen the store for late arriving customers.
- Be alert for people and vehicles when going to your car after locking your store. Carry a wireless alarm transmitter for use if you are threatened.
- If the police or a person from your alarm company calls and asks you to come to your store for any reason, ask for the caller's name and badge or ID number. Then call the police department or alarm company to verify the caller's identification. Do not leave your house until you have done this. The caller could be planning an ambush.

SDPD AREA STATIONS

Central	2501 Imperial Ave. SD 92102	(619) 744-9500
Eastern	9225 Aero Dr. SD 92123	(858) 495-7900
Mid-City	4310 Landis St. SD 92105	(619) 516-3000
Northeastern	13396 Salmon River Rd. SD 92129	(858) 538-8000
Northern	4275 Eastgate Mall SD 92037	(858) 552-1700
Northwestern	12592 El Camino Real SD 92130	(858) 523-7000
Southeastern	7222 Skyline Dr. SD 92114	(619) 527-3500
Southern	1120 27th St. SD 92154	(619) 424-0400
Western	5215 Gaines St. SD 92110	(619) 692-4800