

# Create An Escape Plan With Your Family

The advantage you have is that no one knows your house better than you do. Think about ways ANYONE in your household who has an opportunity can escape to go get help.

In the plan, decide who will go for help, such as to a neighbor's home, and what to say to get help and not alert the home invaders.

Weigh the possibility of injuries from the escape with the chance of survival without escaping.

During a home invasion, the occupants of the house are often handcuffed, tied-up, or otherwise incapacitated, unable to protect themselves or other family members from harm.

Most home invaders are not concerned with your welfare.

**The first 30 seconds are the most critical to your family's survival in a home invasion.**

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## HOME INVASION

### What To Do If You Are A Target

- Attacked
- Burglarized
- Vandalized
- Taken Hostage



**HOME INVASION** occurs when someone breaks into your home (with or without force) and threatens the safety of you or your family. Your reaction can make all the difference.

# What If You're . . .

## Attacked?

React based on your own personal choice, assessment of the situation, capabilities, opportunities, and the level of danger. *Should you scream, fight, or comply to their demands?* Constantly reevaluate the situation. Look for the opportunity to turn the situation around, possibly escaping or saving your life.

### Protect Yourself:

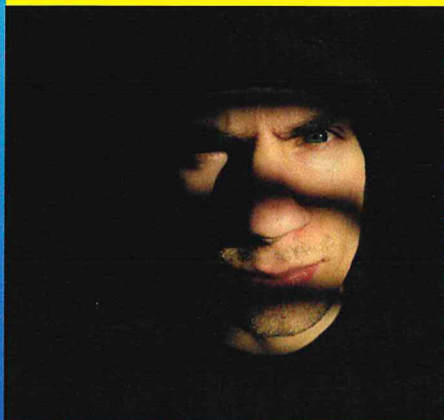
- Use solid, secure doors in your home.
- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Never rely on chain latches. Always look through the peephole before opening the door.
- Be skeptical of anyone delivering an item not ordered.
- Be on the defensive of anyone who tries to lure you out of your home.
- If someone seems suspicious, walk through the house, making sure all windows and doors are locked. Then dial 9-1-1, set off your alarm, and find a safe location until law enforcement arrives.



**40% of home invasions occur because a door or window was left unlocked.**

## Burglarized?

- **Do not touch anything.** Get to a safe location, especially if the burglar may still be inside. **Dial 9-1-1** from a neighbor's home.
- **Call the insurance company.** Ask what is required for claims and any applicable compensation.
- **Make a list of stolen items,** including the serial numbers to improve chances of recovery. Make 2 copies, one for law enforcement and one for the insurance company. Keep the original for your records.
- **List any damage caused by the break-in.** Secure the home. Cover any broken windows or doors with boards, or have them repaired or replaced and keep the receipts. Take video and/or photos.
- **Clean up by rearranging the interior of your home to its former state.** Replace items which were damaged during the break-in, and any stolen items that could not be recovered.
- **Consider counseling** if you or your family feel traumatized.
- **Follow-up with your local law enforcement about the investigation.**
- **Upgrade security measures,** records, and insurance coverage.



## Vandalized?

If you have been the victim of vandalism, contact your local law enforcement. Then contact the insurance company or agent.

- **Ask the insurance company about the immediate needs** like covering exposed areas.
- **Board up any openings** that would allow anyone access.
- **Ask the insurance company how to inventory the claim.**



- **Take photos and video.**
- **Keep receipts for all expenditures** used for the clean up and repair of damaged areas.

## Taken Hostage?

1. **Remain calm.** Consider ways to help yourself.
2. **If you are in the process of being taken hostage, make every effort to dial 9-1-1 on your home phone.**

If you are unable to speak, try to leave it on speakerphone so the dispatcher can hear what is going on if you can do so without the intruder hearing the dispatcher. If you are disconnected for any reason, the dispatcher will send someone to the location.

*(Note: Not all cell phones are equipped with tracking devices that will automatically provide the location of the call.)*

3. **Yell if you have an opportunity to be heard** by someone who can help, such as a neighbor or a person undetected by the home invaders.
4. **If you have a choice, try to get the attackers to NOT tie you up,** handcuff you, or lock you in a room or trunk of a car. *It severely limits your options.*
5. **Give your attacker what he wants.** If you cooperate, he may let his guard down, allowing a chance to escape or at least spare your life. *(It's harder to hurt someone who cooperates.)*



**Approximately 60% of sexual assaults occur during a home invasion.**

6. **The greatest danger of using a weapon is that it can be taken away and used against you.** *(Know the state's laws regarding weapons.)*
7. **Consider faking illness.** This defense may work if you are being attacked, especially if transported in or near a public place where someone might see you and rush to your aid. Never use it as your only defense.
8. **Never allow an intruder to transport you to an ATM or another location** unless it is a life-or-death decision. *The second crime scene is almost always worse.*