



Operation Identification



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According to the latest FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, property crime rates including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft - have seen a significant decline in the last few years:

Roughly 325,000 homes are still being broken into every year - often in plain view, during the day. In fact, property crimes in 2015 resulted in losses estimated at \$14.3 billion.



**There are roughly 2.5 million burglaries a year,
66% of those being home break ins.**

There is one burglary every 13 seconds.



When do burglaries occur?

- There are 1,495,790 burglaries during the day. Break ins are 6% more likely to occur during the day between 6am and 6pm while people are at work or running errands.
- There are 1,324,090 burglaries during the night. The cover of night brings security for intruders but also means people are more likely be home.
- A report from the U.S. Department of Justice showed that from 1993 to 2010, on average, burglary rates were highest in the summer, with about 9% lower rates in spring, 6% lower in fall, and 11% lower in winter.



How do they break in?

- Burglars are most attracted to homes that do not have a home security system, but only 17% of houses have a system in place.
- Homes without a security system have a greater chance to be burglarized.
- 95% of all home invasions require some sort of forceful entry, be that breaking a window, picking a lock, or kicking in a door.
- The most common tools used for breaking in are pry bars, pliers, screwdrivers, and little hammers. All easily concealed and very common tools, making them harder to trace.



- What is Operation ID?

Operation Identification is a nationally recognized theft prevention program that involves indelibly marking and/or engraving property with traceable ownership information, and recording manufacturers' serial numbers and owner-applied identification information in a property inventory.



- The program serves three functions:
 1. Assists the police in locating the owner of found and recovered property
 2. Discourages the activities of thieves and burglars
 3. Assists the police in apprehending and prosecuting criminals



- Three components:

- FIRST, mark your valuables with your driver's license number so that your property can be easily traced and identified.





- Three components:

- SECOND, record the manufacturer's serial number, your owner-applied identification number and a description of the item on a property inventory list.





- Three components:

- THIRD, display a sticker which tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked.





Why is this program effective?

- Marked property is difficult for a criminal to dispose of or sell.
- It can be traced to the rightful owner with relative ease.
- Additionally, if the intruder is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.





Marking Property

- Mark your Texas driver's license number in a permanent manner on all valuables.
- Examples:
 - TX12345678DL
 - TXID12345678
 - TX12345678



Marking Property

- This number is a unique individual identifier that will assist law enforcement in tracing ownership.
- If your marked property is stolen, be sure to inform the investigating police officer of the serial and owner applied number information for your missing property so that it is included in the report and can be entered into TCIC/NCIC.



Marking Property

- Mark all property on permanent, non-removable parts.
- Items should be marked in a place of prominence; one where the numbers can be easily seen without having to dismantle the object.





Marking Property

DO NOT USE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER!



Marking Property

Law enforcement cannot readily identify a person by a social security number alone.

You want to protect this number from potential identity thieves.



Marking Property

- Which property should you mark and record?
 - Property of value a thief could carry away.
 - Examples of most commonly stolen items to be marked include:

Television sets

Stereo equipment

Guns

Radios

Game systems

Car radio/CD players

DVD players

Vacuum cleaners

Fax machine

Cell phones

Scooters

Cameras

Binoculars

Hubcaps

Mag wheels

Lawn mowers

CB radios

Bicycles

Camcorders

Golf clubs

Electric shaver

Tools

Watches, clocks

Musical instruments

Kitchen appliances

(Microwave, toaster, etc.)

Computer equipment

(CPU, Monitor, keyboard, etc)

Computer printer



Marking Property

- The best way to mark your property is with an electric engraving pen.





Marking Property

- If the property is unmarkable, such as antiques, jewelry, silver, artwork, etc., you should inventory, photograph or videotape, and store those records in a safe deposit box.
- A note about computers: Engraving causes high-speed vibrations that can damage your computer and/or void your warranty. In this case, indelible ink may be a better option.



Property Inventory

- When inventorying and marking property, use a systematic approach. Take one room at a time, as the property is marked or photographed, enter it on your inventory list.
- A detailed inventory list will aid you, your insurance company, and the Police Department in establishing your losses and recovering your property.



LeadsOnline

- Law Enforcement Automated Database Search
- Web-based investigative service exclusively for law enforcement
- Provides electronic access to transactions from 3000+ public businesses - including secondhand stores, pawn stores, music stores, game stores, gun stores and internet drop-off stores



LeadsOnline

- Free for businesses; annual subscriber's fee for law enforcement
- This tool is dependent upon manufacturers' serial numbers and item descriptions
- The majority of Metroplex agencies subscribe to this service
- Underscores the importance of Operation ID and an accurate inventory of personal and/or business property



Questions?