THE ISSUE: Burglary-Related Problems

Burglary-related issues were among the top 10 public safety problems identified by recipients of the 2011 COPS Hiring Program. When identifying a public safety problem, it is important to think about the nature of similar incidents in specific terms (e.g., "burglary of retail establishments," rather than just "burglary"). While doing this, it can be helpful to consider all aspects of the problem, including the likely offenders, the suitable targets/victims, and how they all come together to create the situation.

An important component in achieving the COPS Office's mission is to provide quality knowledge resources that address key public safety issues. Featured here is a sample of resources that can be used to directly support your efforts—they can be shared with staff, your community, or used for training purposes. Please visit the COPS Office website to order and download a complete listing of our knowledge resources.

Knowledge Resources



False Burglar Alarms, 2nd Edition (2011)

The vast majority of burglar alarm calls are false, causing unnecessary expenditures in both man-power and money. This problem-solving guide begins by reviewing the factors that increase the risk of false burglar alarms. It then identifies a series of questions that might assist law enforcement address their local problem of false burglar alarms.



Burglary at Single-Family House Construction Sites (2006)

There are many factors that increase the risk of burglary such as the high value placed on building materials, tools, appliances, and small equipment from single-family construction sites. Understanding the various factors that contribute to this problem will help law enforcement to frame their local analysis, determine good effective measures, recognize key intervention points, and select appropriate responses.



Stolen Goods Markets (2010)

The ultimate aim of tackling stolen goods markets is to make it more difficult and risky for people to trade in stolen goods and thereby discourage thefts in the first place. This guide describes stolen goods trading, provides advice on how to best analyze stolen goods markets, reviews tactics, and suggests ways to assess their likely effectiveness.



Burglary of Single-Family Houses (2004)

This problem-oriented guide for police focuses on burglary of single-family houses, primarily owner-occupied and detached. It begins by describing the problem and reviewing risk factors and then identifies a series of questions to help law enforcement analyze their local problem.



Burglary of Retail Establishments (2006)

Retail burglaries are a problem for almost every community. This problem-oriented guide for police reviews what is known about retail burglaries, suggests ways to analyze them in local jurisdictions, and provides guidance on appropriate and successful responses.

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