



Security News

Burglar and Fire detection, Video Surveillance, Access Control, Gate Automation

Thanks for taking the time to read up on what is happening with current clients of Statewide Security as well as other trends we are seeing in criminal activity throughout the West. - Jim O'Donnell

Is your door locked?

About a month ago the wife of one of our commercial clients was home with five children in an upscale area of Bothell. It was early afternoon and she heard a rattling sound at her front door and saw her door knob turning back and forth. She thought it one of the kids outside trying the door. She went to the side window expecting to see a child on her porch; instead she saw an adult man walking away from her door and he was pretending to be a solicitor. He went to three of her neighbor's homes and then left the neighborhood before the police could arrive.

What were his intentions? Is he an economic criminal interested only in what he can steal? In this case he was attempting entry into a home that was likely occupied since this happened before the school year had started and the sound of kids inside the home would have been apparent had he listened (maybe he did and proceeded anyway). He did not ring the doorbell which would have been the normal way to avoid a confrontation with a homeowner in the house. Would he have gotten physical with the homeowner or would he have left? Had this happened ten years ago we could have predicted with fair certainty that he would have left the moment he determined the house was occupied. Given current examples of incidents within our own client base I would not hazard to infer a happy outcome. The

answer is that the criminal element is infinitely more brazen, more violent and far less predictable than ever before. This homeowner likely saved her family from a very serious incident because she carefully monitors her door lock status. We should all do the same.

Morning routines can easily be disrupted:

One of our clients who is a very smart and security conscious relayed this story from a friend. The friend was leaving for work and his wife kissed him goodbye in the morning. Two minutes later the doorbell rang and she assumed it was him coming back to get something he had accidentally left at the house. Oops, it wasn't her husband! She opened the door to find three adult men standing there. Fortunately she was able to slam the door shut before they could respond. She had no appointment set for any services; these men were casing the neighborhood. This could have been really ugly! The point being here that the majority of residential intrusions happen between 8:00AM and 4:30 PM and we know that once the primary people leave in the morning that often the alarm doesn't get armed again until much later when the last person leaves. If this woman had gotten into the shower she might have had a surprise if the three men didn't think the house was occupied and burglarized it.

Evolution of Home Invasions:

Two years ago we saw an increase in home invasions and predicted some of our client base might become victims of this potentially fatal incident that generally uses multiple adversaries taking over a home while the occupants are there.

That has now happened several times in the Greater Northwest and the trend we are seeing is that of the last five home invasions described in the news, three involved a female being used as a decoy to get the homeowner to open up the front door. The woman may cry for help claiming she is being victimized or she may be used as a prospective buyer such as the "Craig's List" killers in Des Moines, WA. who took the family hostage when they went there under pretenses of inspecting product advertised for sale on the Internet site. The normal usage of a female conspirator is to make the occupants think it is safe to open the door and then the males overpower the person at the door, tie everyone up and then injure or kill one or more occupants in their demand for valuables.

Aggressive Solicitors:

We have all answered the door to find magazine salesmen on our porch pitching magazines that we generally do not want. Sometimes they are polite, sometimes they are pretty pushy and the sales pitch rapidly can change from what you want to a tone that is hostile and uncomfortable. You may be accused of lacking respect, being racist, being inconsiderate of their financial needs etc. One diminutive client recently answered the door to a large white man who had a very non-professional sales product of hand written laminated papers in a binder. She really wanted him to go away and it was easier to write him a check for \$10.00 or \$15.00 so she did not feel threatened by him. When she told him she was writing him a check he refused it and demanded her credit card information. When she refused to give him her credit card info he became very aggressive, verbally abusive, loud and extremely intimidating. She eventually got her door closed and he went away but she was shaken by this incident since her kindness was repaid with intimidation.

Our experience is that these incidents do not occur when clients have an intercom at the door. The solicitor talks to a box on the wall and cannot

determine who is home and the client has no exposure to a stranger at their open front door. If you think this is a good idea for your home or office then call us for pricing and specifics.

Video Cameras at Home and Office:

The single biggest trend in security for us is the installation of high definition security cameras at client's homes and offices. We use human form video analytics so we can warn our clients of activity outside their homes before intruders can get inside the house. These cameras are regularly tied to the client's home or office network and they can be viewed by authorized persons or our monitoring station that uses the cameras for video verification before dispatching the police on any outdoor alarm. The price for much of this technology is coming down and the interactive nature is improving. Call us if you'd like to have a camera at the front door or somewhere else around your property.

Cell Phone Control of Your Alarm:

Digital Monitoring Products has released several panels that we've installed that allow our clients to remotely arm and disarm from text messages on their cell phones. They can also get text messages from the alarm panel that tell them that a child has come home and has safely turned off the alarm and is inside the house. If this feature appeals to you contact us for more details.

Big Winter Coming?

Power outage awareness and the need for functioning generators should be on everyone's list right now while we have time to prepare. Call us for generator service or to have us to install a generator or Gentrans for your home or office.

Going Green!

Our newsletter in January 2011 will be all electronic to save on paper, fuel and landfill capacity. Please send us your e mail address so we get you on our confidential list.

Email: info@statewide-security.com.