



Public Service Announcement from Hoover PD

Since 2020, Law Enforcement agencies from across the country have seen a series of high-end burglaries that share similar characteristics. These burglaries share many similarities, unique to a specific group of organized burglary suspects.

As a result of our investigations, as well as collaborating with agencies from all over the United States, we want to share these consistencies, behaviors, and common characteristics with hopes of preventing future victims.

Below is not an exhaustive list, but some common practices observed:

- There is currently no evidence these particular suspects have been armed, and to this point, no one has been confronted or detained by suspects in this crime group.
- These suspects are highly organized, skilled, and appear to have collective training. They operate in groups, often teams of 4-5, with one operating as the “getaway driver”.
- The burglaries generally take place within the first few hours after nightfall. This is important because it is the opposite of the norm for residential burglaries, which usually take place during daytime hours when suspects believe people are at work, school, etc.
- All suspects appear to be male and all wear long pants, long sleeve clothing (possible hoodies), masks, and gloves.
- The suspects target homes that are next to a greenbelt, golf course, or hiking trail, and have been seen walking along the back of homes looking for one that appears to be unoccupied. In other words, no interior activity, lights, or residents seen.
- Once in the back yard of a targeted home, the suspects further attempt to verify no one is home. Numerous videos have captured the suspects leaving a yard if they observe someone is home.
- Knowing most home alarms are only active on the first floor, they prefer to make entry via a second floor window or door. The suspects have utilized patio furniture, ladders, and even scaled walls to gain access to the second story. Single-story homes have also been targeted though.
- The suspects often break a glass door/window to gain entry, since many homes are not equipped with glass break sensors on doors. If you have an existing alarm, we encourage residents to consider adding glass break sensors for further “target hardening”.
- The suspects target the master bedroom and closet areas, looking for high end jewelry, handbags, cash, watches, etc. They have also targeted safes and office areas looking for these types of small valuables.
- Home video surveillance camera systems do not deter the suspects. In some cases, they have actually reached up and turned the cameras to a different direction.
- These burglaries occur quickly, typically just a few minutes. The suspects have typically fled the same way they made entry.
- When confronted by homeowners, the suspects have run away.



What can you do to reduce the chances of becoming a victim?

- If you have an alarm system, set it every time you leave your home.
- Consider updating your alarm system and adding second floor motion sensors (master bedroom, office areas), as well as glass break sensors to areas with large windows or glass doors.
- Install an audible alarm loud enough to not only cause discomfort to someone inside the home, but also easily heard outside by neighbors. Consider adding a second siren near a soffit vent in the attic area. Suspects have run from homes immediately when audible alarm systems were activated.
- If you use a camera system capable of sending motion sensor notifications to your smart phone, ensure this feature is set up and active. In some cases across the country, victims that received the notification called police directly to notify of the burglary-in-progress.
- When you leave your home, give it a "lived-in" appearance that makes it look occupied. Have several interior lights on, consider using smart lights, or even plug in timers for other lights to come on and off, as well as timers for a television or radio to be on creating noise as a result. Videos of these suspects have shown if they "think" someone is home, they move on to the next house.
- Set exterior lighting to the either motion or the dusk-to-dawn settings.
- Landscaping: Eliminate potential hiding spots and create clear lines of sight. Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible to neighbors and from the street.
- Locks & Doors: Consider upgrading to security-grade door hardware: locks, handles, deadbolts, strike plates, etc. Do the "shake test". When the door is closed/locked, shake the handle by pulling several times. If anything seems loose or unsecure, replace it.
- Windows/glass doors: consider replacing with tempered, Plexiglas, polycarbonate products. Or, have security tint/glazing on existing vulnerable glass.
- Serial numbers: Be sure to write down makes, models, and serial numbers for your electronics, firearms, smart phones, and other expensive items. Keep this info in a safe place.
- Get to know your neighbors. They can help watch out for suspicious activity at your home while you are away.
- See something, say something. If you see something that doesn't look right, call law enforcement and report it immediately. If you see any suspicious groups walking greenbelts, hiking/walking trails, or on the golf course in the early evening hours who match the above description, call 911 immediately.