



TOOLBOX TALK: PERSONAL SAFETY: AT HOME

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We often hear in the news of crimes happening in areas where we live or travel. Let's take a look at a few statistics.

Statistics contained in the FBI report, "*Crime in the United States, 2015*" state that:

- The estimated number of murders in the nation was 15,696.
- During the year, there were an estimated 90,185 rapes.
- There were an estimated 327,374 robberies nationwide, which accounted for an estimated \$390 million in losses (average dollar value of stolen property per reported robbery was \$1,190).
- Firearms were used in 71.5 percent of the nation's murders, 40.8 percent of robberies, and 24.2 percent of aggravated assaults.
- Property crimes resulted in losses estimated at \$14.3 billion. The total value of reported stolen property (i.e., currency, jewelry, motor vehicles, electronics, firearms) was \$12,420,364,454.

So what can you do to protect yourself and family at home? Here a few easy precautions you can take to protect your family:

- Always keep your doors and windows locked. Be certain to double-check them at night. Also remember to keep gates locked in your back yard.
- Never hide a key over the doorframe, under a doormat or in a flowerpot. Thieves know all the good hiding places.
- Leave outside lights on if you will be coming home after dark and be sure to have your keys in your hand and ready to use.
- Don't put valuables where they can be seen from the window, especially items that can be easily carried. This includes your automobile!
- Trim any trees or shrubs near doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for would-be thieves.
- Invest in a good security system along with motion sensor lights installed out of reach. Lighting is a proven crime deterrent.
- Report suspicious activity to the police.

Stay alert, use good common sense, and follow your instincts!