



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BUSINESS SAFETY ALERT

SMASH AND GRAB BURGLARIES



ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS:

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office is alerting business owners to a recent increase in smash-and-grab style burglaries affecting commercial properties. In these incidents, suspects are forcibly entering businesses after hours, often using tools such as sledgehammers to break through glass doors and windows. Targets include small restaurants, pubs, and retail stores. These crimes are typically fast, destructive, and costly, even when suspects leave empty-handed.

PREVENTITIVE SECURITY TIPS



SECURE ENTRY POINTS

Install high-quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Use shatter-resistant window film or protective grates on vulnerable glass. Keep exterior areas well-lit to discourage loitering and concealment.



REMOVE CASH AND VALUABLES OVERNIGHT

Empty all cash registers and leave drawers open and visibly empty. Use a bolted-down drop safe if funds must remain on site. Avoid storing expensive equipment or products near windows.



INSTALL AND MAINTAIN VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Ensure surveillance cameras cover all entry points and critical interior areas. Store footage securely and retain it for at least 30 days. Post clear signs to indicate active video monitoring.



USE A MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM

Activate alarms every time the business is closed. Use a licensed, monitored alarm service. Display alarm signage at all entrances.



LIMIT ACCESS TO KEYS AND ALARM CODES

Only give access to trusted employees. Update codes immediately after any staffing changes. Keep rear and delivery doors secured at all times.



CONNECT WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Share reports of suspicious activity with neighboring businesses. Join or start a local Business Watch group in coordination with the Sheriff's Office. Request a free Business Security Assessment from your local Crime Prevention Specialist.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR CRIME

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (858) 565-5200

Emergency: 9-1-1

Santee Sheriff's Station: (619) 956-4000

Submit Anonymous Tip: www.sdcrimestoppers.org

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