

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment.

My friends were enjoying a good nights rest when all of a sudden they were startled awake by the sounds of two people who had broke into their home and were in the process of taking everything they could get their hands on before they were interrupted.

My friend jumped out of bed and headed down the hall, in his own words, faster than he's moved in twenty years. Lucky for him the Meth Head decided to flee instead of fight. During the robbery they had gained access to the gun cabinet and at the time my friend was running down the hall the Tweaker had two pistols in his possession, which could have easily been used to shoot my friend. The thieves were seasoned criminals who had successfully completed several home invasion robberies and it appears they had been in the house before. They were able to get into the locked gun cabinet with keys they got out of a purse that was left on the kitchen table. Even though you are home, keep your keys, your wallet and/or your purse in your bedroom while you sleep.

Once the criminals ran out of the house the homeowners called 9-1-1. Unlike the four hours it took for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department to get to my house after being called for a burglary in progress, two officers were on the scene in ten minutes.

These officers were professional and thorough in their investigation. They collected what evidence they could and within twelve hours, followed the leads and arrested the suspects, even though the officers didn't know who these suspects were at the time they arrived at the scene. When my home was robbed, I informed the Humboldt County Sheriff's Officer who the people were that were responsible for the break-in, where they lived, where they bought their meth, how they disposed of the stolen property and we even gave them a pillow case full of the tools used in the crime. All I received from the

Sheriff's Department was a statement that the crowbar, grinder, grinding wheels and meth pipe were not made from material that they could get fingerprints from so they weren't going to try and obtain any fingerprints from these items recovered at the scene. Access to my home was gained by using a crowbar on a dog door after they tried to pick the locks on the doors and removed window screens and tested the windows to see if they were locked. None of these areas were dusted for fingerprints. The officer assumed they were wearing gloves. Thirty days after the burglary, I was informed that the suspects hadn't been contacted and short of them implicating themselves in the crime, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department was out of leads and the case was closed. Wow! What a difference in how the two crimes were handled. One, the officers arrive on the scene in ten minutes after 9-1-1 was called and even though they didn't have any idea who the suspects were, they follow the evidence and apprehended the suspects within twelve hours. The second crime, the officer arrives on the scene FOUR hours after 9-1-1 was called, he was given a bag full of evidence and the names of the people who committed the crime and lo and behold the evidence isn't processed and the suspects aren't even interviewed. I can only assume that my criticism of a government that is completely out-of-control with their spending has somehow left a big red X on my house when it comes to receiving services my tax dollars pay for.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment