

## Burglary Prevention

Your best protection against a burglar is visibility. Well-lit open spaces, low counters, and large, uncluttered display windows. Put your cash register up front so that the burglar's activity will be visible from the outside.

Additionally, you should:

- Contact the crime prevention unit of your local law enforcement agency for a free security survey of your business. Also request, additional information on Business Watch and Operation Identification.
- Keep a complete, up-to-date inventory of your merchandise and property: office machinery, personal belongings, etc. Put a copy in your safe deposit box or at a location away from your business site.

**If you suspect your business has been burglarized:**

- Immediately call your local law enforcement agency or dial 9-1-1.
- Don't go in - the burglary may still be inside
- Don't open for business - your employees and customers may unwittingly destroy or alter valuable evidence.

## Important Numbers

**All Emergencies**  
(Police, Fire or Ambulance)  
**911**

Animal Services  
(760) 343-3644  
Business Licenses  
(760) 391- 4197  
City Hall  
(760) 391- 4000  
Code Enforcement  
(760) 391- 4123  
Crime Free Multi-Housing Program  
(760) 391-4037  
Fire Department (Business)  
(760) 347- 0756  
Indio Golf Course  
(760) 391- 4049  
Indio Police Dept Main Line (24-hours)  
(760) 391- 4057  
Indio Police Department Non-Emergency  
(760) 391- 4051  
Indio Water Authority (Business)  
(760) 391- 4038  
Graffiti Removal Hot Line  
(760) 391- 4143  
Neighborhood Watch  
(760) 391-4037  
Office of the Chief of Police  
(760) 391- 4035  
Senior Center  
(760) 341- 4170  
Special Events ( Garage Sale and Event Permits)  
(760) 391- 4175  
Teen Center  
(760) 541-4400  
Coachella Valley Crime



***“Our Community...  
Our Commitment”***



## Commercial Burglary

**Indio Police Department**  
46-800 Jackson St.  
Indio, CA 92201  
Phone:760-391-4057  
Fax:760-391-4036  
[www.indiopd.org](http://www.indiopd.org)

## Business Security

If you own or operate a business, make sure it is safe and secure. Your customers want to feel safe when they visit, and they are likely to return if their visit is positive. Law enforcement encourages businesses to subscribe to the Crime Prevention Through Design (CPTED) concept as an easy way to ensure that their business is safe and secure. What is CPTED? It is the design and lay-out of the business that eliminates or reduces criminal behavior and at the same time encourages people to “keep and eye out” for each other. The National Crime Prevention Institute defines the purpose of CPTD as:

*“The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction of fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life.”*

With this in mind, apply these CPTED principles to your business:

- Locate check-out counters near the front of the store, clearly visible from the outside so that employees can better watch all activities.
- Clearly mark public paths. Make private areas harder for non-employees to access.
- Use signs to direct patrons to parking and entrances.
- Prevent easy access to the roof and fire escape from the ground by trimming trees adjacent to the building. Secure roof access and fire escape ladders with locking covers.
- Provide rear access to shops if rear parking is offered.
- If possible, install rear windows to face parking areas for increased visibility.
- Do not cover up windows with advertising or display material.
- Use interior shelving and displays no higher than five feet, even lower in front windows.

- Fully illuminate the exterior of the building and grounds at night.
- Design loading areas that avoid creating hiding places for people and merchandise.
- Place all entrances under visual surveillance.
- Place any pay telephones within clear view of employees.
- Consider installing an alarm.

### Maintaining your Property

This is an important part of your over-all security. A run-down business can attract criminals. Follow these simple suggestions to maintain a customer-friendly business:

- Keep buildings and walks clean and repaired.
- Maintain parking areas to a high standard without pot-holes or trash.
- Remove faded posters, broken signs, and other displays that are beyond their useful lives.
- Keep plants and landscaping in good condition.

### Consider the “nuts and bolts” of security

The following are suggestions to provide a burglar-resistant environment for you and your employees:

- Utilize deadbolt locks with a minimum of 1” throw bolt containing hardened saw-resistant steel insert on all exterior doors. If you choose double cylinder deadbolts, check with your local building inspector or fire department to see if these locks are permitted.
- Pin the hinges on exterior doors that swing out. Simply remove the center screw from each side of the

hinge and insert a metal pin or headless screw on one side. This will prevent the door from being removed.

- Replace hollow-core doors with solid-core doors. Replace weak door frames or reinforce them with steel or concrete. Protect glass in the door with mesh or a polycarbonate sheet.
- To secure windows, consider adding clear poly-carbonate sheets. If this is too expensive, consider roll down covers, grates or bars. Remember to check with your local fire department or building inspector.
- If you are considering purchasing an alarm system, contact several reputable companies and get a full assessment of needs. If you do consider purchasing an alarm system, consider adding the following:
  - Panic Buttons (in case of robbery)
  - Fire/smoke detectors
  - Monitored system (Contact law enforcement if alarm is activated)

### Alarm Permits Required in the city of Indio. The City of Indio

requires a special alarm permit upon activation of the alarm system. The permit can be purchased from the City of Indio Finance Department at 100 Civic Center Mall (760) 391-4040. The permit can be downloaded at <http://www.indio.org/index.aspx?page=382>.

The City of Indio allows one false alarm permit a year. All other false alarms incur a \$93.00 False Alarm Assessment fee and an Administrative Citation. There will be a \$93.00 False Alarm Assessment at the first alarm if there is no valid permit for the system.