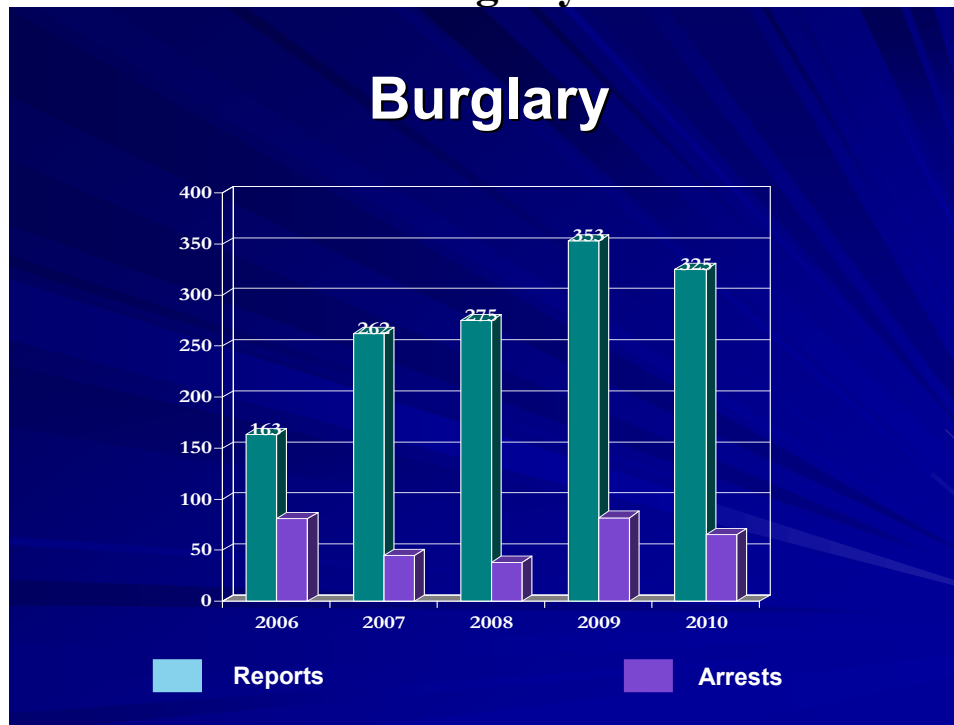


## Marshalltown Burglary Crime Trends



### January – August 2011:

**Residential:** 109 reported burglaries to residence  
• 8 confronted suspect in home

**Garage:** 22 reported burglaries to garage/shed

**Business:** 21 reported business burglaries

**Attempted Burglary:** 46 resulting in damage to door or window

**August 2011: 19 Burglary reports**

**August 2010: 23 Burglary reports**

**August 2009: 29 Burglary reports**

**STOLEN ITEMS:** Guns, TV's, snowblowers, cash, laptops, jewelry, electronics, tools, generators/air compressors.



## **CRIME PREVENTION BEGINS AT HOME**

### **Protecting Against Entry**

#### **LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS!!!**

- Key control – if you move into a new home or lose your keys, always have the locks *rekeyed*.
- Do not leave emergency keys under the door mat, on top of the door frame or any other “hiding spots” that are well known. Give an extra key to your neighbor.
- Never attach a name or license tag to your house keys.
- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock, key-in-the-knob locks are not enough.
- Garage doors should always be closed and locked whenever you are away from home.
- Use bracing devices for doors and windows that slide.
- Basement windows are attractive to burglars, pay special attention to securing them.

### **Protecting Your Property**

#### **Mark and record your property**

- Mark your property with easy identifiers (appliances, televisions, stereos, guns, cameras, tools, etc.)
- Be sure to photograph small items (jewelry)
- Make an inventory list to keep somewhere only you know
- Save receipts with model & serial numbers of more valuable items and keep them with an inventory list.

### **Alarms**

#### **Do not depend solely upon an alarm to protect you.**

- Contact a professional alarm company for quotes.
- Residential alarms that emit noise from a bell or siren can be effective in deterring the burglar.
- The mere presence of a dog may discourage a burglar; however, it's not a sure method.



## **PERSONAL SECURITY**

- Do not allow strangers in your house.
- If you have a service or salesperson enter your home, do not leave them alone. Also, do not hesitate to ask them for their name and write it down.
- Do not open the door unless you see someone standing outside that you feel comfortable making contact with.
- If someone asks to use your phone, make them wait outside while you place the phone call for them.

## **IF YOU INTERRUPT A BURGLAR**

Do not go looking for a confrontation with a burglar.

- If you find an open door or window, do not go in. Call police from some other location.
- If you hear or see a prowler in your home, *do not investigate yourself...call 911 immediately*. Leave if you can to get somewhere safe, otherwise lock yourself in a room.
- If an intruder is in your room, pretend you are asleep.
- If you come face-to-face with an intruder: stand motionless, be polite, and cooperate with their commands.
- Never struggle with an intruder unless you are clearly in danger of serious physical harm.
- If you are forced to defend yourself – go all out! Use your hands, feet, and scream as loud as you can.

*\*\*Guns are responsible for many accidental deaths in the home every year. Think carefully before buying a gun. If you do own one, learn how to store it and use it safely\*\**



## **ADDITIONAL TIPS**

**Be Neighborly** – Meet your neighbors. Ask them to watch over your property. Let them know who they will see at the house and who to expect if you will be away. Ask them to call if they see any suspicious people or activity.

**Don't tip off burglars by telephone** – If you get several suspicious “wrong number” or nobody-at-the-other-end” calls, let the police know. Never tell anyone on the phone or leave a message on your voicemail indicating when you will or will not be home.

**Don't advertise your vacation plans** – Let a trusted neighbor or friend know your plans. NEVER put your vacation plans on any networking websites, i.e. Facebook! Make plans to have your yard mowed, snow plowed, and garbage taken out.

**MAKE IT LOOK AS IF YOUR HOME** – Timers on exterior lights and interior lamps are important for making the appearance someone is home. Also leaving a radio or television on may also make the house appear occupied. **THIEVES HATE BRIGHT LIGHTS.**

**Homeowner's or renter's insurance policies** – They provide a basic protection against burglaries and other types of thefts.

**Don't reward the burglar who does get in** – Do not give them a “bonus” of cash or easily-carried jewelry. Keep them in safe deposit box.

**Emergency telephone #'s** – Have police, fire, and paramedics' emergency telephone numbers listed next to each phone or stored in your cell's contacts.

*If you hear or see someone in your house or attempting to enter the home of another: **Call 911***

*If you have information to report to the police, such as suspicious activity, suspicious phone calls, or want extra police checks: **CALL 641-754-5725***