



# VFW Post Insurance Program

## Loss Control Article

### Increasing Post Security

As a Post in Indiana recently learned, you can't put a price on keeping your Post safe. After beefing up their security with door bars and outside lighting, the Post was put to the test when an intruder attempted to get by their defenses. The intruder was able to pry the door jams and break the door trim, bending the steel door, but was not able to gain entrance into the Post, inevitably saving the Post further damage and theft!

Would your Post be able to stand up to a burglar? Here are eight tips to consider implementing to protect your Post from theft:

#### **Make your security system like an onion, not an egg.**

Layers upon layers are not only the best deterrent, but the best defense against break-ins. It's easy for a criminal to bypass a single line of defense, but multiple layers will slow him and serve as a means to alert you that someone is trying to break in.

#### **Pretend to be a burglar.**

Walk around your Post and ask yourself: How would I break in? Where are the blind spots? What are the most vulnerable areas likely to be attacked? Spend a few minutes looking for "weaknesses" and focus your security there.

#### **As well as locking something, you must also protect the lock and its components.**

A common combination of cheap locks and small construction flaws - that we tend not to notice - often give criminals the "cracks" in security they need to break in. Buying locks that have locking tongues and placing window stops in all accessible windows will reduce the chances of a burglar getting around your locks and into your Post.

#### **Plant rosebushes or cactus in front of all vulnerable windows.**

Thorny landscaping not only adds beauty to your Post,

but makes even getting close to such windows an unappealing prospect. The second most common way of breaking in is through rear or side windows. A thief can work on such windows with little chance of detection, but standing in the middle of a thorn bush to do it is not a pleasant experience.

#### **Put safety bars on the windows.**

When it comes down to it, windows are always breakable. A set of regular bars on high-risk windows are not likely to destroy the aesthetics or value of your Post, and the added security is well worth it.

#### **Install motion detectors in areas where no one should be.**

This way, you know something isn't right when the motion detectors go off. Put detectors along the side or back of the building, so that someone lurking there sets them off. Look into low voltage and/or solar powered outdoor lighting. This kind of lighting illuminates your property at very little cost.

#### **Install an alarm system.**

Alarm systems range from basic to incredibly high-tech depending on the level of protection you desire. An alarm system is a very effective way to deter intruders since it alerts the police department when set off.

#### **Video.**

In these high-tech times a Post can install a motion-activated camera to record any activities in and around your Post. Such taping may not prevent a break-in, but will assist in the capture and conviction of burglars.

Although burglaries may seem random in occurrence, they actually involve a selection process by those looking to commit such crimes.

Following these tips can help make your Post less of a target to intruders and a safer environment for your members and guests.