

Price-Langevin continues to have increased reporting levels from our client base in 2017. Recent events evaluated by our risk assessment group include robbery involving home invasion, severe vandalism, theft, assault and fraud. Organizations should continue as part of an on-going agenda the evaluation of security controls and risk potential. Increasingly violent incidents are occurring creating elevated risk to public safety.

Price-Langevin has recently evaluated the site of a violent home invasion robbery. In this situation two armed intruders forced their way into a local residence armed with handguns, bound the homeowners, and held them for three hours in a terrifying ordeal. These events are increasing in frequency and the level of violence is increasing. There have been several instances of mistaken address where invaders were expecting increased resistance, which can lead to increased levels of violence against victims that they would be unsuspecting that they would be susceptible to these types of events.

An invasion robbery occurs, when criminals physically force their way into an occupied home, hotel room or business. These types of events are particularly traumatizing as they violate a person's sense of security and create a very high-risk situation. Many victims report post-traumatic stress symptoms, and many are unable to return to the location of the robbery.

Our Security Evaluation Group has included the following information provided by the Canadian Safety Council as it discusses the importance of security preparation and measures to prevent or deter criminal events. The Canada Safety Council web page can be reached at www.canadasafetycouncil.org

Crime and Home Invasion, Be Prepared – Canada Safety Council

Home invasion scenarios are generally thought of as a premeditated confrontation in the victim's home with the intent to rob and/or inflict violence. The impact of home invasion extends beyond the



violence of the crime itself; it is particularly frightening because it has a predatory nature and violates the one place that we feel safe: our home.

All Canadians can take some preventive measures to help minimize the risk of home invasion. Here are some preventive steps that can be taken to enhance your security:

Secure Your Home and Your Surroundings: This includes reinforcing your doors and doorframes and using deadbolts and sliding door locks. Keep windows visible from the street and consider the use of bars (ensuring a fire escape route is still possible) and devices such as security film which reinforces the glass. Have a well-lit exterior and ensure that the lights are not accessible and will not be tampered with. Consider the use of alarms and identifying valuable property with identification (e.g. engraving). Do not keep large amounts of money in your home and keep valuables in a safety deposit box. Also, you may consider having a “decoy” jewellery box with inexpensive yet valuable-looking pieces of jewelry. It may deter a ransacking of your home.

Do not Allow Strangers in your Home: Since this is one of the preferred methods of forceful entry (the other is through the garage) be vigilant and trust your instincts. You will need a good observation point where you can see people outside of your door. You may observe them for a few minutes to determine what their motives are. You may also want to use an intercom system to talk through a closed door. ***DO NOT open the door to people you do not know***, no matter how well-dressed they are or how kind they appear to be. If they claim to be representing a company (such as an electric or telephone company), call and confirm with the company before allowing them into your home. Any reputable representative will understand your precautions and should have the phone number readily available for you to call and verify.

Know your Community: Have a good sense of your surroundings including your neighbor’s habits and vehicles. Consider joining a Neighborhood Watch program. Suspicious people or activities may be of interest to the police, so write down information that may be useful (description of suspicious vehicles or strangers, phone numbers identified as calls to your home that hang up, etc.).

Don’t Hesitate to Call 9-1-1: There are numerous deceptions that can be used to have you unlock or open your door. Remember, if a stranger at your door needs assistance and asks to use your phone; offer to dial and call for them. If they claim that damage has been done to your parked car or that they need your signature, trust your instincts and play it safe. You do not have to and should not open your door to anyone, not even the police, until you have sufficient proof that they are who they say they are. If you are unsure, call 911. Stay calm and stay on the line. Give all the information requested and if you are unable to speak, a police unit will respond to your home.

Other Tips: The weakest link in home security is the occupant that fails to lock up and opens the home to strangers. The best defense against home invasion is education, planning and exercising good judgment. Practice role-playing different scenarios at the front door to feel entirely comfortable while making someone wait on the other side of the closed door. Get help from your family or friends to



rehearse polite, yet firm responses to all types of potentially threatening situations. You may even want to deter home invasions by creating the illusion of others living with you. You may choose to put a pair of large boots out at the front door or a dog toy or drinking bowl. Finally, you do not want to be predictable. Vary your outings such as shopping or walks around the block.

If you Become a Victim: If the unfortunate circumstance of becoming a victim presents itself, remember to stay calm. Further action beyond calling 9-1-1 and fleeing the scene may be necessary. Your actions should reflect your circumstances and the threat of violence to yourself and loved ones.

Cooperating with the suspects may be your best option, as no amount of cash or material goods is worth getting hurt over. Take time to observe the description of the suspects: look, smell and listen to pick up on any identifying features. The Bulletin: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics claims that 68 percent of home invasion crimes are committed by strangers. (A further 21 percent were casual acquaintances of the victim and the remaining 11 percent were family, friends and business relationships.)

Although home invasions account for a small proportion of robberies reported to the police, you must raise your level of awareness, rehearse your refusal to open the door, take inventory of the safety aspects of your home and reduce the odds of becoming a home invasion victim.

At Price-Langevin Technical Security we provide security consulting expertise to organizations, government and individuals to protect their safety and assets. The following Expert Recommendations for Physical Security Measures should be considered in effort to prevent invasion and robbery situations:

- Install solid core doors, heavy duty locks, and window security devices.
- Devices to re-enforce door jambs such as a “Bolt Buddy” have proven effective and should be a priority. Visit www.boltbuddy.com
- Lock all doors, windows, and garages, ensure garage security measures match house levels.
- Use four three-inch screws to secure heavy duty lock strike plates in the door frame.
- Use the door peephole BEFORE opening the door.
- Consider installing a Honeywell or Similar WIFI Video Doorbell. Visit www.security.honeywell.com/hsc/products/intruder-detection-systems/alarm-communication-total-connect/total-connect-video-solution/1099665.html
- Install substantial white lighting on the building exterior and use motion detection lighting.
- Consider installing an effective low light capable, HD quality IP CCTV Video System such as Geovision or similar. Visit www.geovision.com.tw/us/
- Consider installing an effective Intrusion Security Alarm System such as a Honeywell Vista or Lyric or similar. Visit www.security.honeywell.com/canada/
- Evaluate your security systems, camera systems and physical security status on a regular basis.
- Use your porch light to help you to see clearly outside
- Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door
- Never open the door to strangers or solicitors.



- Call the police if the stranger acts suspicious.
- Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors.
- Hold a family meeting to discuss home security plans.
- Set the home perimeter alarm at night, every night if you have one.
- Follow your instincts and believe yourself when things don't feel right.

Price-Langevin Technical Security experts are available to assist you or your business or organization with the development and implementation of an effective security plan.

Organizations and citizens should take extra precautions and be aware of any suspicious activity. Do not approach suspicious vehicles or persons and not to intervene if you see criminal activity taking place but to call 911 and provide descriptions and detail to law enforcement if safe to do so.

Please feel free to call our office at 780-490-6744 or info@pricelangevin.com to discuss ways to minimize your risks for both personal safety and property security. We are here to assist with your security requirements.

Security Risk Alerts are provided on an on-going basis to our clients based on occurrences reported and observation evaluated by our assessment group. Organizations and individuals should continuously evaluate risk levels and implement policies, procedures and countermeasures as required to mitigate risk.