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**Public Safety Committee**

**Often confused types of crime:**

Definitions of, and distinctions between, some commonly misunderstood types of crime.

**THEFT vs ROBBERY**

**Theft:** When a person steals, takes, carries, leads, drives away personal property of another – this involves the intent to permanently deprive another person of their property by taking it without consent.

**Robbery:** The taking of personal property in the possession of another, *from his person or immediate presence, & against his will, accomplished by means of force or fear.*

**ROBBERY vs BURGLARY:** People are robbed, property is burglarized. One way to remember this is that 'Rob' is a person's name.

**TRESPASS vs PROWLER** – the difference is **intent**.

**Trespass:** Trespassing is when a person trespasses without written permission of the owner, etc. Although both a prowler & trespasser are on private property without consent, the trespasser is not on the property to commit a crime.

**Prowler:** Prowling is committed by any person who prowls or wanders on private property without visible or lawful business for the purpose of committing a crime.

## **BURGLARY vs HOT PROWL BURGLARY**

**Burglary:** Burglary is the entering of a structure (or other place) with the intent to commit a theft or felony. The structure must have walls on all sides & a roof, but it doesn't need to be intended for habitation. This includes houses, rooms, garages, warehouses, locked vehicles, locked trunks (of locked/unlocked vehicles) etc.

**Burglary vs Hot Prowl Burglary:** Burglary is when there are no occupants at the location. A Hot Prowl Burglary is when an occupant is at the location.

## **HOT PROWL BURGLARY vs HOME INVASION:**

When suspect & victim are both inside the location – these are both dangerous, but there's an important distinction.

**A Hot Prowl Burglary** is when someone breaks into a home and the home is occupied, but the intent is the burglary, not an encounter with the occupants - it can happen when burglars don't realize someone is home (e.g. they rang the doorbell or knocked, and there was no response or acknowledgement) or when they don't expect or intend to encounter the occupants (e.g. residents are sleeping).

**A Home Invasion** is when the perpetrator(s) break into a home with the intent to harm or threaten the occupants. A hot prowler has the potential to escalate to a home invasion.

## **BURGLARY/THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE:**

**Burglary from Motor Vehicle (BFMV)** occurs when property is taken from a secured vehicle – e.g. window is smashed to get inside, lock was picked, etc.

**Theft from Motor Vehicle (TFMV)** is when something is taken without having to break into the vehicle – e.g. door was unlocked, window was open, or something was taken from the exterior of the vehicle (e.g. catalytic converters).

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