### SPECIAL REPORT 5 REASONS Commercial Property Theft Isn't a Top Police Priority





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## Police are understaffed

There are approximately 13,500 law enforcement agencies that report staffing levels to the FBI and collectively employ 686,665 sworn-in officers and 288,620 civilian personnel and investigators. And when you do the math, that is only 3.4 law enforcement personnel per 1,000 residents.<sup>1</sup>

**3.4** LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL PER 1,000 RESIDENTS U



## Police have a lot on their plate

A break-in at your business is just one of many incidents and duties competing for police time and attention. This New York Times<sup>2</sup> chart shows how police in three major cities typically spend their time.

### Average Time as a Percentage of Total Shift



Source: New York Times

\*Residential and/or auto theft will almost always take priority over your commercial property theft.

# **3** Your break-in may not be a priority

Police prioritize response by the nature of the problem and the dangers it presents. Here's an example of how one local police department handles their inquiries:<sup>3</sup>

- **PRIORITY 1:** Emergency calls where there is an immediate threat to life.
- **PRIORITY 2:** Emergency calls where there is an immediate and substantial risk of major property loss or damage.
- **PRIORITY 3:** Crimes in progress that present no significant threat of serious physical injury or major property damage.
- **PRIORITY 4:** Calls that do not require an immediate response but where an officer's investigation will likely lead to criminal apprehension based on physical evidence or information about the suspect.
- **PRIORITY 5:** Request for service where the officer's primary function will be fact-finding, reporting, or rendering assistance.

Additional lower-level priorities are assigned to calls for traffic enforcement, parking control, abandoned vehicles, calls relayed to public works and similar issues.



### Will police even come out to your business after a break-in? Maybe.

One California beverage distributor says police in his city won't respond to a reported theft unless the loss is greater than \$5,000. Their rationale: too many nonviolent property crimes and not enough law enforcement personnel.

# Response times can be lengthy

Most cities average response time can be around 11 minutes,<sup>4</sup> but actual response time can vary widely, depending on where you live and the severity of the crime. Here are some national police response time statistics based on the crime.<sup>4</sup>

#### Average Police Response Time Broken Down by Crime:

Type of Crime	Within 5 Minutes	Within 6 – 10 Minutes	11 Minutes to 1 Hour	Within 1 Day	Longer Than 1 Day	Unknown
Crimes of Violence	28.3%	30.3%	33.5%	2.5%	0.4%	5%
Robbery	32.3%	38.8%	28.3%	0%	0%	0.6%
Property Crimes	12.8%	20.2%	47.8%	12.6%	1.9%	4.7%
Residential Burglary	13.6%	21.8%	46.9%	12.6%	1.9%	3.3%
Motor Theft	12.5%	22.2%	49.1%	11.5%	1.3%	3.3%

## 5 Police are plagued with false alarms

False alarms account for 10% to 25% of all calls made to police<sup>4</sup> and significantly impact law enforcement's availability to respond to real emergencies. Unfortunately, 94% to 98% of all burglar alarm calls turn out to be false.<sup>4</sup>

In many areas, authorities impose fines for false alarms. In others, police are increasingly refusing to respond to alarms unless they are dually-verified by someone at the scene or through live-monitored video surveillance.

#### Video verification affects how quickly police respond

Alarms that are verified by video surveillance systems typically get faster police response than unverified alarms.

- In Boston, Massachusetts, response time to unverified alarms averages
  21 minutes, versus just over 7½ minutes when the alarm is verified by video.
- Grand Prairie, Texas, reports that officers arrive on scene in as little as two minutes if an alarm is verified. Unverified alarms may wait up to 15 minutes for response.
- Salinas, California, has also seen response time drop to just under three minutes when alarms are verified, versus more than 39 minutes without verification.



## Police intervention is only reactive.

You only call them when a crime is in progress. And, unless your incident tops their current dispatch priority, law enforcement officials generally don't catch a perpetrator in the act or stop you from suffering a loss.

Alarms and surveillance cameras provide some measure of proactive deterrence, but hard-core professionals can find a way around them.



SHOCKING

POWER UP YOUR PERIMETER



## Power Up Your Property's Perimeter with Layered Security

Thieves want to get in, grab the goods and get out as quickly as possible. The best way to prevent theft is with a layered perimeter solution that will deter criminals from entering the premises.

AMAROK has developed the ultimate perimeter protection solution called FORTIFEYE<sup>™</sup>. FORTIFEYE integrates electric security fencing, video surveillance, and video monitoring to create the ultimate crime prevention solution. It all starts with The Electric Guard Dog<sup>™</sup> 7,000-volt solar electric fence with warning signs along the perimeter. It serves as a strong preventive measure that stops criminals in their tracks.

Together, these layers create a force field of security to deter, detect and defend your property against even the most tenacious criminals.

### ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP TO POWER UP YOUR PERIMETER?

#### CONTACT AMAROK TO GET STARTED.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Crime in the United States, <sup>2</sup>How Do Police Actually Spend Their Time?, <sup>3</sup>City of Eugene Police Call Priority Definitions, <sup>4</sup>Credit Donkey



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