

# BURGLARY IN PROGRESS

## STUDY GUIDE

### 2003



This study guide is designed to provide the law enforcement Explorer with basic principles. The guide is not all inclusive, and does not delineate specific techniques that must be used. The focus of this guide is to provide principals that are flexible and adaptable to various law enforcement situations.

Following the basic principals in this guide should allow the law enforcement Explorer to successfully handle various law enforcement training activities safely and professionally.

The study guide was developed through the cooperation of International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.



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## SITUATION/SCENE

Apartment or simulated residence. Explorers will respond to a call from an individual who claims his/her home has been burglarized and the suspects may still be in the residence. Upon arrival, the explorers are faced with a situation with many unknown dangers. Another explorer team is available for backup.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Direct the complainant/witness to safety. Remove the complainant/witness away from the scene. Place them in your patrol car or behind cover, advise them to stay they're until you or another unit advises that the scene is safe. You are responsible for there safety.
2. Interview the complainant /witness before approaching the residence. Ask the following questions;
  - A. How many suspects are in the residence?
  - B. Are the suspects armed?
  - C. What is the layout of the residence?
  - D. Are there any weapons inside and where are they?
  - E. Do you know the suspects personally? If yes, what could there motive be?
  - F. How did they gain entry into the residence?

Remember the more questions you ask, the more information you can find out that will allow for a safe resolution.

3. Enter the residence quietly, orderly and quickly. Use a silent approach and come from an unexpected direction. Get as close to the objective as possible without the suspects becoming aware of your presence. Using an unexpected and silent approach will allow more time to assess the situation. Whenever possible, approach on a side that that offers the most protection, away from windows and doors. The explorers should position their vehicle so it is out of view of the site, but not so far that it cannot be reached in an emergency.
4. Use available cover and concealment. Cover is anything that will stop, slow down or deflect incoming rounds. Concealment is something that can hide a person from view. Although cover is preferable to concealment, concealment is better than plain view when officers are in a high-risk situation. **If you can see the suspect they can see you.**
5. Position yourself to the side of the door, not in front of it. Building and room entries are dangerous because explorers must enter through fatal funnels. A fatal funnel is any area that narrows and constricts movement or an area that focuses the suspect's attention. The suspect knows the explorers will use these passageways. Common fatal funnels are doorways, windows, hallways, stairwells, elevators and alleys. **Don't be predictable.**

6. Should I draw my weapon? This is left up the individual explorer and the amount of threat perceived, how many suspects there are and if armed. There are many unknowns in this situation, so gather as much information as you can.
7. Always maintain proper target acquisition. During the initial encounter with a suspect, the explorer should recognize and evaluate the threat level paying particular attention to all verbal and non-verbal cues that could indicate a suspect's intention of attacking the explorer's weapon.
8. Remember that weapons safety is paramount and we be aware of the direction of the muzzle. Specific circumstances such as being behind cover and far from the suspect, doing a building search, performing a weapons recovery or being in a crowded area will dictate how you will carry your weapon. The gun should be carried in your dominant hand with the help of the support hand. The muzzle is pointed in the area of the threat and there is never a finger on the trigger. Never point your weapon at your partner.
9. Always use proper verbal and or hand signals. During a slow and deliberate search it is often inappropriate to talk to other members of the team because conversation may give away the position of the explorers or reveal the next move. A simple whisper to a partner may reveal a plan or direction of searching, thereby jeopardizing the explorers. If conversation is unavoidable, try talking in a low tone such as in a murmur through clenched teeth. The vibrations may be overheard but the words will be unintelligible except to those in close proximity. Hand signals can provide a form of communications. These signals should be simple and universal. Always use your non-gun or weak hand when using hand signals.
10. Be careful about creating unnecessary noise by rubbing against walls or other surfaces. Be aware of foot, voice and radio noise. Perform a "jump test" prior to entering the building. Jump up and down several times. Secure or remove anything from your person that makes noise and could compromise your position. For example loose change or keys.
11. Maintain proper positioning in relation to your partner. Avoid crossfire and always maintain a visual site of your partner. Never split up and try to do it alone. Communicate with your partner and let him know what you see or hear. Time is on your side don't be careless.
12. Search and secure the primary areas first such as living rooms, closets, bathtubs and large cupboards unless there is specific information indicating secret hiding places. Primary areas are where there is the greatest probability of persons hiding themselves. Then search secondary areas. Secondary areas are those areas that require a greater amount of time and agility to get into such as under beds or in kitchen cabinets.
13. Once an explorer has observed the suspect(s), he/she should go to a position of cover and then verbally order the suspect into the open. In most Law Enforcement situations, the suspects are compliant and will do everything that is asked by the officer. This compliant mode does not mean a suspect is not a threat or will not attack. In fact most fatal attacks

come from persons who try to deceive and lure officers into a sense of security by acting compliant. To prepare for a possible attack, an explorer must put him/herself in a position of advantage, behind cover. Don't let your guard down, prepare for the worst, hope for the best.

14. Once an officer has observed the suspect, he/she should go to a position of cover and then verbally order the suspect into the open. The explorer should identify themselves in a loud clear voice as the **"POLICE"**. Attempts to bluff a suspect to come out from a hidden position may not be successful. However once an explorer has seen the suspect, he/she can identify them by giving a clothing description and the location seen. By placing in the suspects mind that they have been discovered the officer achieves a psychological advantage. If the explorer believes the suspect is armed, the suspect should be told to turn away from the Explorer. Always be clear and concise when giving verbal commands.
15. Always secure your weapon before handcuffing a suspect. The searching explorer must not search with his/her firearm drawn although the explorer behind cover may have a weapon drawn under appropriate circumstances. If, prior to the search, the explorer's firearm is out, such as during a weapon recovery, the firearm must be holstered securely prior to handcuffing or searching the suspect.
16. The searching explorer must not search with his/her firearm drawn although the explorer behind cover may have a weapon drawn under appropriate circumstances. Always point your weapon in the area of the threat and not at your partner.
17. The searching explorer must never search a suspect(s) with his/her firearm drawn.
18. Regardless of the specific type of technique or style used to handcuff a suspect there are a few principles that are common to any handcuffing. Always place the suspect(s) in a position of disadvantage. Handcuff the suspect(s) behind their back and always double lock the handcuffs.
19. Upon contact with the suspect(s), handcuff, search area accessible to hands and remove the suspect to a safe and secure area for a thorough and proper search.
20. The "handheld" search is done grasping the interlocked hands of the suspect and the handcuffed search is done by keeping chain control. Check the waistband, the entire backside and the entire front side, do not skip any areas. Be methodical and work from the top to the bottom. A good search will mean that you will not miss any weapons.)
21. Once you have located the suspect's weapon you must secure it away from the suspect. The weapon can be placed in one's rear waistband or can be handed off to your partner. Either way never place the weapon where the suspect(s) can retrieve it and use against you or your partner.

22. Once the suspect is placed under arrest, always advise him for what he/she is being arrested. Know the elements of the crime for which they are being arrested.

*Burglary: A person commits the offense of burglary when, without authority and with the intent to commit a felony or theft therein, he enters or remains within the dwelling house of another or any building, vehicle, railroad, car watercraft, or any other structure designed for the use as the dwelling of another or enters or remains within any other building, railroad car, aircraft, or any room or any part thereof.*

*Elements of Crime:*

1. *The defendant entered or remained within a structure specified by the statute*
  2. *The defendant did this act without authority.*
  3. *The defendant did this act with the specific intent to commit a felony or theft in the place he/she entered.*
23. Explorers should be in a F.I. stance whenever they are armed and near the any member of the public. Blade the trunk of your body with the gun side turned away from the person addressed. Keep your arms close to your side, your dominant arm's elbow close to your handgun. The nondominant hand is used for gesturing if necessary. This position keeps the Explorers firearm away from a potential threat.
24. Always think "one more." If you find one gun look for a second, if you have one suspect, look for another. When clearing a building or room, remember to search all areas of the room, under beds, in closets, behind curtains and always look up. If you see bystanders, ask them if they saw anything. A lot of times people will not get involved unless you ask.
25. Stand behind the handcuffed suspect. Using a "C" clamp around the outside of the suspects elbow, the explorer will grasp the suspect's elbow with his dominant hand. On the suspect(s) same arm, with his nondominant hand, the explorer grasps the wrist so the suspect's knuckles are in his palm. Bend the suspect's elbow, placing the upper and lower arm in a position that looks like the letter "L".
26. Select one explorer in your group to be the team leader. The team leader is responsible for handing out assignments and for any questions that any member of the team may have during the operation. Safety is of paramount importance during all law enforcement operations. The team leader will make sure that everyone involved is operating on the "same sheet of music". Conduct a debrief with all personnel involved at the end of the operation. Talk about the things that went right but also talk about things that could have gone better.
27. Not everyone can be a team leader. Therefore, once you have selected one it is the responsibility of each team member to listen to the team leader. Discuss all options available and be willing to be flexible. Law Enforcement is about working together and being part of a team. We can't do it alone so let's use all available resources.