

From the Desk of Detective Dave

Don't Self-Investigate

Burglary or Theft

September 2016



Many good things come out of a growing community, but unfortunately so do certain types of crime. Burglary and theft are two examples of criminal activity that seems to be more frequent in our community lately. If you discover you've been a victim of criminal activity, it's vitally important not to down play it and to call the police immediately. For many, the natural reaction is to self-investigate the scene to see what has been taken and/or damaged. This is not only dangerous, posing a risk to your personal safety, but it also impedes subsequent crime scene investigation and processing.

Many break-ins and thefts are perpetrated by drug addicts looking for cash or valuables to support their addiction, and are often under the influence of drugs when they commit their crimes. These people are desperate, not in their "right minds," and are capable of most anything, depending on the drug they're using. If you're not physically and mentally prepared to handle a potential confrontation, your odds of being injured, or worse, are dramatically increased. The second important reason to call the police first is crime scene preservation and integrity. Nearly every crime scene will provide some type of evidence that could easily be altered or destroyed by self-investigation. Some evidence may seem to be insignificant to the untrained eye, but could ultimately turn out to be a piece of a larger puzzle.

In an emergency, or if you have any doubt about safety, dial 911. Dispatchers will direct you in what to do until the police arrive. If you're sure there is no emergency, then call non-emergency dispatch directly at 720-652-4222.

CONTACT US

720.382.5700

333 5th Street
P.O. Box 435
Frederick, CO 80530



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