



Demo Home Invasion Product

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Safe Steps



**Safe Steps
Charlottesville, Virginia
Home Invasion**

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SAFE STEPS HOME DEFENSE PILLARS

1) Remove the Decision-Making Process

In a crisis, clear steps beat hesitation. Preplanned actions stop panic and keep everyone moving in the right direction. When your family knows exactly what to do, decisions are automatic, not emotional. This turns chaos into control and keeps you focused on staying safe, not guessing what comes next.

2) Layered Defense

Security works best in layers. Locks, lighting, reinforced doors, alarms, and safe-room plans all play a role. If one fails, another holds. A layered system slows intruders, buys time, and keeps your family ahead of danger. Every extra barrier adds seconds—seconds that can save lives.

3) Situational Awareness and Reporting Culture

Pay attention to small things before they turn serious. Unfamiliar cars, strange noises, or repeated knocks can signal trouble. Encourage your family to share what they notice and stay alert together. Awareness turns random luck into predictable safety.

4) Physical Reinforcement and Hardening

Strong materials slow intruders and make your home a harder target. Reinforced doors, upgraded locks, and shatter-resistant windows give you critical time to respond. These small improvements discourage break-ins and turn seconds of warning into minutes of protection.



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5) *Redundancy and Backup Systems*

Never rely on just one system. Phones die, power cuts out, doors jam—backup plans keep you in control. Have spare lights, secondary exits, and alternate ways to communicate. Families who prepare for failure don't panic when it happens; they switch to Plan B without missing a beat.

6) *Rehearsal, Muscle Memory, and Role Confidence*

Practice turns nerves into confidence. Regular short drills help family members move automatically when something goes wrong. No one has to think, only act. Repetition builds calm, speed, and teamwork, ensuring everyone knows their job and trusts the plan when it matters most.

7) *A Strong Defense is a Good Offense*

The smarter your layout and barriers, the safer you are. Position furniture, locks, and lighting to limit intruder movement and give you control of the space. Make them slow down and expose themselves while you stay protected. Preparation shifts the advantage to you.

8) *Threat Isolation*

Shut down movement fast. By locking doors and closing off sections of the house, you trap the intruder in one zone and keep your family in another. Quick isolation limits risk, buys time, and helps responders do their job when they arrive.

9) *Defend, Do Not Pursue or Counterattack*

The goal is survival, not confrontation. Chasing or fighting intruders adds unnecessary danger and risk. Focus on staying



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safe, locking down, and getting law enforcement involved. The best defense ends when your family is secure and professionals take over.

10) Adaptive Planning

Every threat is different, and your response should match it. Plan for multiple situations and adjust as needed. Flexibility keeps your plan effective even when reality doesn't follow the script.

11) Maintenance and Lifecycle Checks

Preparation fades without upkeep. Monthly checks of locks, lights, batteries, and alarms ensure everything works when needed. Simple maintenance keeps your defenses strong and prevents small issues from becoming major failures during an emergency.

12) Legal and Post-Incident Readiness

Once everyone is safe, the work isn't done. Knowing how to handle police, insurance, and legal steps keeps you calm and protected. Document what happened, save evidence, and contact trusted help. A clear plan for the aftermath avoids costly mistakes later.

13) After-Action Review and Incremental Hardening

Every drill or event should make you better. Take fifteen minutes to discuss what worked, what didn't, and one improvement to implement. Step-by-step adjustments compound over time, building a home that's smarter, stronger, and safer after every review.



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ASSESSMENT

1) Surrounding Area

a) Neighbors

- i) Home has neighbors on both left and right side and across the street, but none to the rear. Door to Door distance to closest neighbor is 40 meters. Limited direct line of sight to neighbors on left and right. Substantial direct line of sight to neighbors across street. Trees separate home from neighbors, but easily passible and no major obstacle separates home from neighbors.

b) Geography

- i) Home has substantial dense woodlands to the rear, interspersed trees throughout property, and light vegetation between neighbors. Terrain is generally flat and well-manicured with no substantial landscape features serving as obstacles.

2) Perimeter Security

- a) Home has no fence. Home has no landscaping features that restrict foot travel. Rear of property backs up to dense woods with no easy vehicle access.

3) Entry Points

- a) Doors: Home has 3 doors: 2 inward-opening wooden doors, 1 sliding glass door, 1 garage door.
 - i) Wall Hardware: Wooden doors are secured to wall with 3 joints, each with 3 1.5 inch screws.
 - ii) Lock Hardware: Wooden doors both have knob lock plus 1.5 inch dead bolt. Sliding door has handle latch and vertical catch
 - iii) Garage Door: Does not have external handle. Has external pin pad. Has remotely operated opening device. Internal door to house swings inward with just a knob lock.



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4) Accessible Windows

- a) Ground floor has 9 accessible windows. All windows open vertically and contain plastic locks. Glass is approximately 1/4inch thick. All windows contain screens.

5) Current Security measures

- a) Technology: Home currently monitored by ADT system. System armed on all 9 ground floor windows and all 3 outside doors.
- b) Homeowner possesses two firearms. 2 Glock 19 9mm handguns are located in the master suite. Total of 90 rounds of ammunition are stored in the home. Total of 2 magazines are stored in the home.

6) Family

- a) Homeowners are 40 Male and 39 Female. Three children aged 4, 7, and 9.

7) Conclusion

- a) Home has no perimeter security and no access to neighbor overwatch. Neighbors are generally too far to be reached or of any help. Home has adequate police alerting technology, but no physical deterrents for invaders. No glass window will protect from shattering. External door wall fixtures are not sufficient. Garage door has no deterrent for sophisticated entries and internal garage door is a serious security weak point.



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SIMULATED HOME INVASION

- 1) Infill
 - a) Park car between houses in dead zone of trees
 - b) Walk around to back side of house
- 2) Entry point
 - a) Kick in / pick lock of back door
- 3) Movement through home
 - a) Scan first floor for noise
 - b) Move upstairs, looking for adults of house
- 4) Separate and Secure
 - a) Use force to separate adults and secure them
 - b) Keep adults in separate rooms
- 5) Locate Valuables
 - a) Check bedroom for jewelry
 - b) Check offices for safes
 - c) Coerce adults to provide locations of valuables
- 6) Exfill
 - a) Exit through back door
 - b) Return to car parked in dead zone



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SAFE STEPS PLANS

SITUATION ALPHA: Intruder Inside (active high threat)

- 1) Kids run to bedroom 3
 - a) Each yells "*Name* Set" when in bedroom 3
- 2) If needed, Mom gathers kids and stages them in bedroom 3 in staging position
 - a) Mom yells "All set"
- 3) Simultaneously, Dad secures firearm from closet.
- 4) Dad turns hallway light on and assumes position at Defensive Position 1 inside bedroom 2.
- 5) Mom calls 911, confirms police dispatch, and relays password to police.
 - a) Ask that police announce the password when enter home
- 6) Mom opens Window A to prepare necessary escape route.
- 7) Dad remains at Strong Point 1 until police arrive.
- 8) Police Arrive and confirm password
- 9) Dad advises police to sweep floor 1
- 10) Police reach floor 2, dad moves to bedroom 3 and allows police to finish sweep



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SITUATION ALPHA: Intruder Inside (active high threat)			
Step	Dad	Mom	Kids
1	Secure Firearm	If needed, gather kids and stage in Bedroom 3 SP1 Yell "All set"	Run to Bedroom 3, yell "Name Set"
2	Turn on hallway light and goes to Defensive Position 1	Call 911, relay password to police, ask police announce password when enter home	
3	Remain at DP 1 until police arrive	Opens Window A to prepare escape route	
4 (police arrive)	Ask police to confirm password, and advise to sweep floor 1		
5	When police reach floor 2, move to bedroom 3, allowing police to sweep floor 2		



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SITUATION BRAVO: Potential Intruder Outside (immediate threat at entry points)

- 1) Kids run to bedroom 3
 - a) Each yells "*Name* Set" when in bedroom 3
- 2) If needed, Mom gathers kids and stages them in bedroom 3 in staging position
 - a) Mom yells "All set"
- 3) Simultaneously, Dad secures firearm from closet.
- 4) Dad turns hallway light on and assumes position at Defensive Position 1 inside bedroom 2.
- 5) Mom calls 911, confirms police dispatch, and relays password to police.
 - a) Ask that police announce the password when enter home
- 6) Mom opens Window A to prepare necessary escape route.
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SITUATION CHARLIE: Incomplete Household / Missing Members (positive identification threat)

- 1) Kids run to bedroom 3
 - a) Each yell "*Name Set*" when in bedroom 3
- 2) If needed, Mom gathers kids and stages them in bedroom 3 in staging position
 - a) Mom yells "All set"
- 3) Simultaneously, Dad secures firearm from closet.
- 4) Dad turns hallway light on and assumes position at Defensive Position 1 inside bedroom 2.
- 5) Mom calls 911, confirms police dispatch, and relays password to police.
 - a) Ask that police announce the password when enter home
- 6) Mom opens Window A to prepare necessary escape route.
- 7) Dad remains at Strong Point 1 until police arrive.
- 8) Police Arrive and confirm password
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REHEARSAL PLAN

Purpose: Build muscle memory, test one skill at a time, maintain calm under pressure

Metrics:

- 1) Time to set
- 2) Time to 911
- 3) Calmness / communication score (1-5)

Format:

- 1) Cue introduction: "Alpha, back door"
- 2) Action phase: safe-room entry, 911 script, defensive position
- 3) Immediate AAR: What went well? What slowed us down? What created confusion? Did everyone know their role at all times? Did our equipment work as expected?

Variables to change:

- 1) Location of break in
- 2) Location of family members at break in
- 3) Visibility (lights off/on)
- 4) Phone location (in hand vs not)
- 5) Situation Alpha, Bravo, Charlie

Schedule:

- 1) Daily for a week
- 2) Weekly for a month
- 3) Monthly for a year



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911 SCRIPT

- 1) “My name is [Name]. I live at [full address]. Someone is trying to break into my house right now. They are at the [front/back/garage door]. I am inside with [# of people]. I don’t know if they’re armed. Please send police now.”
- 2) Answer all questions
- 3) “Our family password is [password]. Please have police say [password] as soon as they enter the house.
- 4) Give the following information if possible:
 - a. “we are currently located on floor 2, in the NW bedroom”
 - b. Is anyone injured?
 - c. Number of suspect(s).
 - d. Description of suspect(s).
 - e. Description of weapon(s)



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IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

- 1) Door stopper in Bedroom 3: \$50
- 2) Fire ladder in Bedroom 3: \$40
- 3) Flashlights in bedroom 3
- 4) Sliding door Delivery Bar: \$20
 - a)



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COMMAND AND SIGNAL

- 1) Password Combo:
- 2) Number Combo
- 3) Safe word:
- 4) Pro words:
 - a) 911 called:
 - b) Initiate plan:



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Local Laws

Deadly force in Virginia is lawful only when you reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury; mere trespass or property loss does not justify deadly force, and the legal label of “burglary” or an intruder being armed affects how a jury will judge reasonableness.

- 1) Va. Code § 19.2-83.3 — Definitions (Deadly force / Deadly weapon). Deadly force = any force likely or intended to cause serious bodily injury or death; deadly weapon = any object whose use is likely to cause death or serious injury. Use these definitions to understand what the law treats as “deadly” force.
- 2) Virginia common law / Castle-doctrine principles (case law & legal commentary). Inside your dwelling there is no statutory “duty to retreat” in the same way as outside; a homeowner may use force — including deadly force — only when they reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury. In short: deadly force is justified in the home only when you reasonably fear great bodily harm or death
- 3) Va. Code § 18.2-119 — Trespass after being forbidden. Uninvited entry or remaining after being told to leave is a misdemeanor; trespass alone is not a lawful basis to use deadly force — there must be a reasonable belief of imminent deadly or serious bodily harm
- 4) Case-law and legal guides on proportionality & imminence (Virginia courts). Virginia follows the core self-defense rules: the defender’s belief must be reasonable, the threat imminent, and the force used proportionate. Deadly force is only lawful when lesser force would not suffice to prevent imminent serious harm. These principles are derived from Virginia cases and legal commentary.
- 5) Duty to retreat / Stand-your-ground context (outside the home). Virginia has no single code section labeled “stand your ground”; outside the home, courts may consider whether retreat was possible — whereas inside the dwelling the



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“castle” approach gives stronger protection, but still requires reasonable fear of death/serious injury. Do not assume you may use deadly force outside the home without attempting safe retreat when feasible.



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Post Invasion Documentation/Law Enforcement Interaction

- 1) Officer Name and Badge numbers
- 2) Incident / case number
- 3) Immediately back up security camera or doorbell footage
- 4) Record a video walkthrough showing point of entry, damage, missing items; narrate what you see.
- 5) Create an itemized inventory of any stolen or damaged property
 - a. Description, brand, model, approximate purchase date, replacement value
- 6) Ask insurance about temporary living expenses, keep all receipts



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UPPER FLOOR PLAN



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