

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**REACTION AND CRIME**

# **NEWS**



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# Dear Valued client

**W**elcome to the Guard-Alert reaction and crime news February edition. Incidences of thefts of solar batteries are on the rise. These are valuable and unfortunately the more unscrupulous in our society have realised that too and as a result people have been losing up to tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment in single incidents. Guard-Alert advises property owners to do the following in order to prevent losses of their batteries:

- 1. Keep your mouth shut!** – Do not boast about how much the solar array is worth. You may attract unwanted attention
- 2. Motion Sensors** - Install outside motion sensors so that any movement around your premises is detected.
- 3. Video Cameras** - this can be an unattractive sight, but if there is a video camera on the property already, it can be re-aimed or positioned to cover the solar array. There are also dummy cameras.
- 4. Reduced Access** - In an urban area, where the array is most likely on the roof, this is a giveaway that you have solar batteries at your premises. Make it as difficult as possible for the criminals to gain access to the batteries by investing in a layered security system.
- 5. Security Guard** – The mere presence of a security guard at your premises is a visual deterrent for any would be criminal. Make sure that you hire a security guard from a reputable security services provider such as Guard-Alert Security.

With a little bit of ingenuity and common sense you can certainly minimize the risk of theft or frustrate a criminal's efforts. Call us today for more information on you can avoid the trauma of being a victim of theft.



## REACTION NEWS

### HARARE

On **07/02/2020 at 01.37am** our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a domestic client in Damafalls Ruwa. The reaction team attended and, upon arrival, was informed that intruders entered the premises and removed burglar bars from a window that had been left unsecured. They stole a television set. Ruwa Police were informed and attended. Guard-Alert urges you to ensure that your windows, doors and any other potential access points are secured at all times

A burglary signal was received from a commercial client in Southerton on 10/02/2020 at 07.40am. The reaction team attended and upon arrival they were shown two customer vehicles that had been broken-into and a car battery had been stolen from one of these vehicles. Seven other customers' vehicles were found to have been ransacked and left with doors and bonnets open. Matter was reported to the police.

On **11/02/2020 at 12.28am**, our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a commercial client in Avondale. The reaction team attended and was advised that intruders had entered the premises and attacked the security and caretaker at the shop who ran away for cover. They then forced open the reception door and stole two televisions sets. Matter was reported to Avondale Police Station.

An alarm signal was received on **21/02/2020 at 08.36pm** from a domestic client in Greendale. The Reaction Crew was dispatched and, upon arrival, the occupants advised that a police officer on guard duties heard a noise at rear of the house of a breaking glass and rushed to investigate. He discovered that intruders had absconded after they removed a bedroom door from its hinges that fell down and broke. Intruders fled after realizing that the noise of the door had alerted the occupants. Highlands Police were informed and attended.

On **21/02/2020 at 03.25am**, the control room received a burglary alarm signal from a church in Avondale. The reaction team attended and could not ascertain as to whether the intruders could have tampered with anything since the premise was well secured. Later mid morning the church authorities reported that intruders had stolen a horizontal outside water pipe from the building's wall. The matter was reported to Avondale Police Station.



## **BULAWAYO**

On the **13th February 2020 at 02.08am**, a burglary signal was received from a residential property in West Somerton. The Reaction Crew was dispatched and, upon arrival, discovered that intruders had gained access to the client's truck and disconnected the battery. They were however disturbed by the arrival of the Reaction Crew while trying to open other vehicle resulting in running away them leaving behind spanners and screw drivers.

## **GWERU**

On **08/02/2020 and at 03.19am**, our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a commercial property in the CBD. Our reaction team attended and on arrival they reported that all was in order. The sound of the siren might have scared away intruders.

On **28/02/2020 and at 10.35pm**, a burglary alarm signal was received from a residential property in Southdowns. Our reaction team was sent to investigate and on arrival they reported that everything was in order. The sound made by the siren could have scared away intruders.

## **KADOMA**

On **02/02/2020 at around 12.20am**, a burglary alarm signal was received from a commercial property in the CBD. The Reaction Crew attended and upon arrival reported that everything was in order. The sound of the alarm scared the intruders away.

## **MARONDERA**

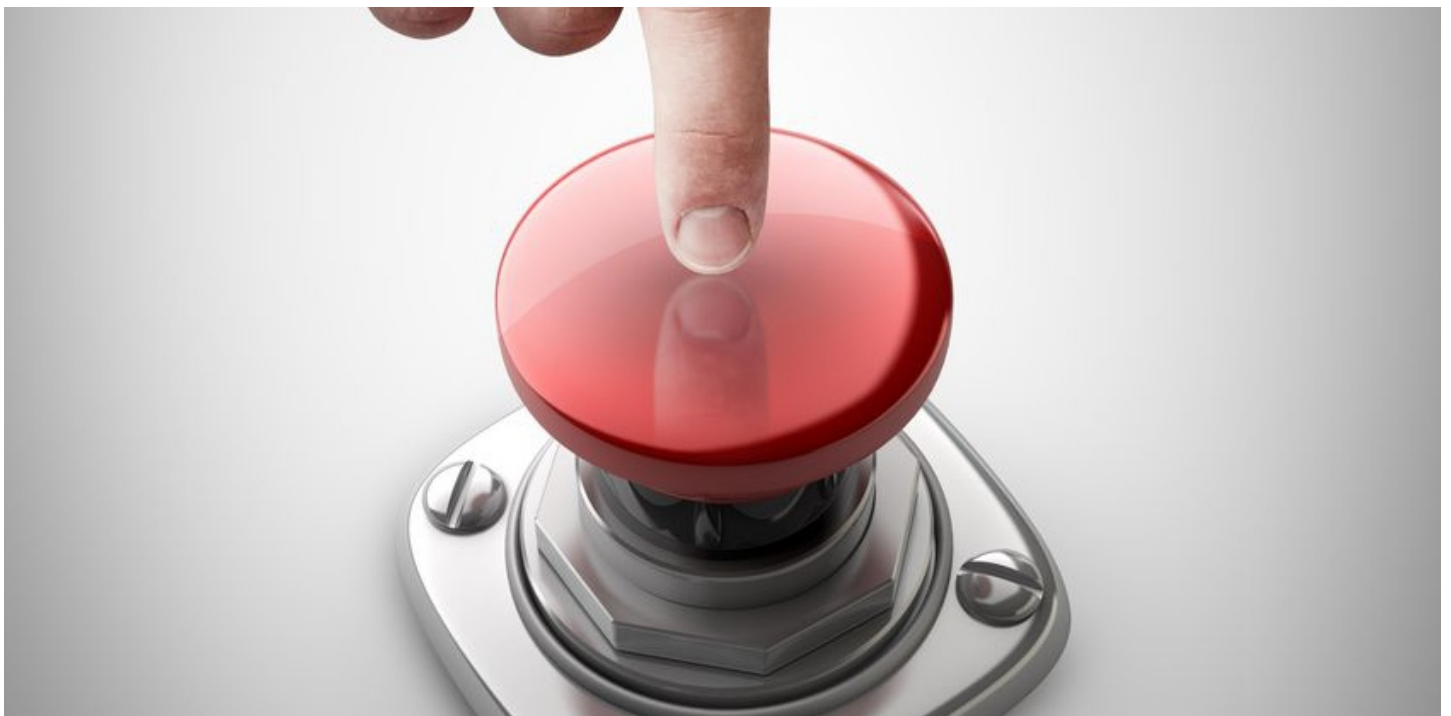
On **28/02/20 at 12.30am** our control room received a burglary alarm signal from a commercial client in Cherutombo area. The Reaction Team attended and upon their arrival found a drunk man who was looking for a way out after being locked inside the bar when the bar closed. Through investigations it was established that the bar had been closed at around 11.15pm whilst the drunk was fast asleep under the wooden bench. The bar lady did not noticed him so she armed the alarm and locked the doors. At 12.30am the man woke and moved triggering the alarm .The was client was advised and the man was cleared at Police Station after being witnessed that he was so drunk by the time the bar was about to be closed.



## MASVINGO

On 18\02\2020 at 03.35am, an alarm signal was received from residential property and Reaction Team was dispatched. Upon arrival, they found everything in order. The sound of the siren scared the intruders away.

On 18\02\2020 at 08.50am, an alarm signal was received from residential property in a low density suburb. The Reaction Team attended and upon arrival, the reported that the property was secured .The sound of the siren, scared the intruders away.



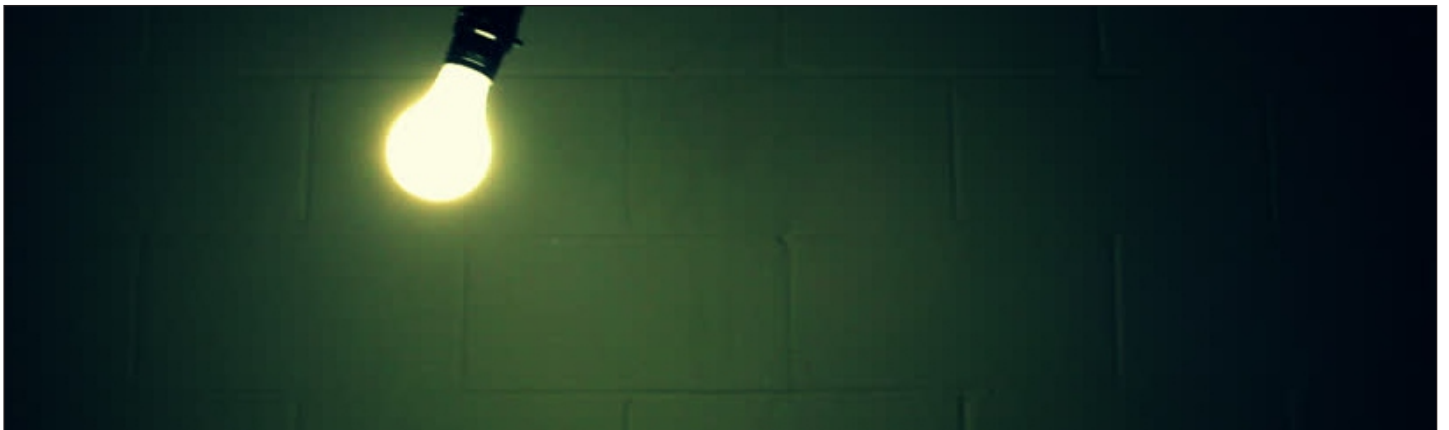


## CRIME NEWS

### NATIONWIDE

**R**esidential burglaries literally hit close to home. Burglars actively choose their targets, and will assess a neighbourhood by looking for the easiest houses to break into. There is almost nothing more personal than having one's home, and one's privacy, invaded by an unwelcome outsider. Join the fight against crime. Here a few tips on how to avoid becoming a victim;

- 1.** 8 out of 10 residential robberies are committed with the help of information from maids, gardeners and former employees. Take your workers for fingerprint vetting at your area police station.
- 2.** Most attacks occur between 19.00 hours and midnight when people are relaxed, sleeping, cooking or watching TV and the security systems are not activated. Robberies can continue until 04.00 hours so be vigilant and keep entry doors locked.
- 3.** Keep your garden tidy and make sure all shrubs and trees are trimmed back so that they do not allow a burglar to conceal himself while attempting to open a window or door. If possible plant bushes with prickly thorns around these areas.
- 4.** Take extreme caution when hiring casual workers. Be careful who you let into your home i.e. repairs and maintenance workers. You reputable companies or those with traceable references.





## **HARARE**

On **13/02/2020 at 05.32pm** one of our security guards arrested a criminal for theft of a cellular phone valued RTGS560.00. Accused was taken to Police.

On **16/02/2020 at 09.00am** an unknown intruder was observed by the guard manning the complex. Upon realizing that he had been observed, the intruder jumped out of the premises before he could steal anything. Matter was reported to client.

On **17/02/2020 at 06.10pm** two of our guards arrested one employee each where they are stationed for theft of beef and vegetables. Both accused persons were referred to Mbare police Station.

On **19/02/2020 at 08.50pm** a report was received to the effect that a driver at a commercial client attempted to steal a 50kg bag of rice. The accused was taken to Police.

On **24/02/2020 at 08.46pm** our guard arrested an accused person for breaking a glass door with the intention to steal from an office. Investigations revealed the accused is an employee of this company. Accused was taken to police.

On **25/02/2020 at 02.37am** two accused persons gained access to a commercial property and started pelting the guard with stones. When the guard retreated, they stole a hosepipe and fled the scene. Matter was reported to Police Mbare.

## **BULAWAYO**

A Bulawayo man is lucky to be alive after three robbers, one of them masked, allegedly pounced on him in the wee hours of Saturday night at the robot-controlled intersection of Luveve Road and Siyepambili Drive where they forced themselves into his car, ordered him off the steering and drove his vehicle to a secluded area in Luveve before tying him up and stealing the vehicle's tyres and battery. They then drove away in a Honda Fit which was following closely. A report was made to Luveve Police Station. Investigations are in progress.





A gang of ten armed robbers attacked a businessman at his homestead in Gwanda and fled with R15 000 and US\$275. Three of the suspects whom are the complainants neighbour, invaded his home on the 13th January 2020 at 9pm in a Toyota Hiace while armed with axes and bolt cutters. They cut the perimeter fence, broke a door and gained entry into the house where the complainant was sleeping with his family. They struck the complainant twice with an axe and ransacked the house where they found R10 000. They also searched the complainant's car which was parked outside after smashing the windows and took R5 000 and US\$275.00 before fleeing the scene in the vehicle. The complainant's wife reported the incident to the neighbours who pursued the gang in another car and caught up with them after a 20 km chase. Six of the suspects are still at large. We, at Guard-Alert, urge you to refrain from keeping large sums of money in both your homes and vehicles.

## MARONDERA

On 06/02/2020 at about 02.35am, two security guards who were manning the boosters at Nharira shopping centre were assaulted by iron bars by seven unknown persons who broke the palisade fences and stole batteries from three base stations taking advantage of heavy downpours. The matter was reported at Nharira Sub Police Station.

On 07/02/2020 at 08.45pm one of our supervisors arrested two kitchen staff members at one of the colleges in Marondera for stealing several groceries from the kitchen. The accused persons were handed over to Marondera Police Station.

On 25/02/2020 at 08.15pm one of our security guards who was manning one the base stations at Melfort area noticed four unknown armed persons who surrounded the guardroom with intending to assault and tie up the guard before going on to steal. Our guard fired one stone with his catapult at the robbers and runaway whilst blowing his whistle. The robbers chased the guard but they failed to apprehend him. The robbers then drove off towards Harare along Harare-Mutare Road using a white pickup vehicle. The robbers had broken the palisade fences and pulled out the diesel tank pipe wanting to siphon the diesel but were unsuccessful as they were disturbed by the guard who was very alert on duty. The matter was reported at Goromonzi Police Station.





## CHEGUTU

On the 25th of February 2020, at around midnight, a Chegutu resident's house was invaded by armed robbers who managed to make off with the house owner's car, cell phones and an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspects are still at large.



## CRIME STATISTICS

### TARGETED ITEMS

- Cash
- Car Batteries
- Fuel
- Solar batteries

## HARARE REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
<b>HARARE</b>									
Avondale			1			2	2		5
City Centre			1				2	2	5
Damafalls			1			1	1		3
Greendale						1			1
Hatcliffe			1				1		2
Msasa	1						1		2
Rugare							1		1
Southerton							2	1	3
Willowvale							1		1
Workington			1			1	2		4
Zengeza 2							1		1
<b>MARONDERA</b>									
City Centre			1				1		1
Cherutombo			1			1			1
Melfort						1			1



## MATEBELELAND REGION

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from vehicle	Total
<b>BULAWAYO</b>									
Burnside			1						1
City Centre			1						1
West Somerton						1			
Victoria Falls							1		1
Beitbridge							1		1
Lupane							1		1

## SOUTHERN REGION

<b>GWERU</b>									
City Centre						2			2
Southdowns						1			1
<b>KADOMA</b>									
City Centre						1			1
<b>MASVINGO</b>									
Zimre Park						2			2

