



# FFL Precautions & Action Planning for Civil Unrest

## ***Act & Prepare NOW***

1. If possible, remove firearms from easy access, displays, showcases and secure behind multi-layers of protection if possible. Use vinyl-coated braided steel cable and padlocks to secure long guns in place. This may take extra effort at this time but will secure your inventory.
2. If you want to relocate your firearms to a remote / alternate storage location temporarily, simply notify the ATF with the new storage location and make an inventory list of what is being moved if not all. \* Advise them when guns are returned to the licensed location.
3. If targeted for protest, consider using plywood to board up your vulnerable glass windows and doors.
4. Tour the exterior of your facility and view it through the eyes of a vandal. Remove anything that can be used to breach, damage, or gain entry. Where possible, park unused (older if possible) vans or trucks in front of access locations including glass doors, front / main entry, rear exits.
5. Relocate large / heavy store display safes to the front areas of your store to prevent easy access by intruders and reduce visibility to your inventory.
6. Use black/dark cloth sheets (if possible) to hide visibility to showcase contents (if not left empty). Use duct tape to secure blinders (dark sheets, material from fabric stores).
7. Turn lights off at end of day and before vacating. Make it hard for looters / protesters to see what is inside. make your store "uninviting".
8. Move power lifts (if you have them) to block interior doors and entry ways.
9. Secure your A and D records / make a digital back-up, keep an off-site copy. This will be important if you experience an on-site fire, computers are damaged, etc. You will need your A and D records for insurance claims, replenishment, ATF theft reports.
10. TEST your burglar alarms and security camera systems. Contact your alarm company and DIRECT them to dispatch police immediately if you have an alarm device activated. INSTRUCT them NOT TO CALL YOU for approval to dispatch police during this high-risk period. You may incur "false alarm" fees but it is worth it during this time. Your



security camera footage will be critical in pursuing prosecution of assailants. Is your system recording properly?

11. If truly vulnerable and you leave guns on site, create a hand-made cardboard sign for your front and rear entries that says, "ALL GUNS REMOVED and SECURED OFF SITE". This can simply serve as a visual deterrent.
12. If remaining on-site to protect your store, create a large handmade sign that says "ARMED SECURITY INSIDE" to deter and WARN opportunists from vandalizing your site.
13. Notify your local law enforcement regarding whether or not firearms are being left onsite before vacating and if they are secure or vulnerable. Realize that LE response to any alarms may be delayed due to increase in activity.
14. Have the following contact numbers handy to help manage through a burglary:
  - Staff members to assist with clean up.
  - Insurance broker / company to report the loss, initiate a claim.
  - General contractor - to repair door frames, make temporary but necessary repairs.
  - Glass repair - upgrade if replacing glass to a pilfer / vandal -proof product. \* Our preferred partner is Window Film Depot - nationwide emergency service and receive an NSSF or FFLC discount - 866-933-3456.
  - Contract security (local) company - you may need multi-day protection during your recovery.
  - Primary distributors and UPS - contact partners to delay / post-pone deliveries.
  - Locksmith
  - Utilities - emergency numbers
15. If pilfered, NOTIFY the ATF immediately and report the burglary. The ATF local office will hopefully dispatch support staff to assist with your post-burglary inventory process and loss reporting. (24-hour theft reporting> 1-800-930-9275)



## ***Future Considerations***

1. You may consider installing burglar bars or a roll down / roll-across security screen on the interior of your front vestibule doors and windows to deter future break-ins by criminals. Most organized gang-style burglars at FFLs are typically not well-planned out and vandals use items such as pavers or landscape rocks to easily break glass windows and doors. Installing bars or security grilles / gates on the interior is a primary strategy to deter and slow the break-in process. Roll down gates can also be installed on the exterior of your glass as long as the protective equipment cannot be easily compromised or towed away by a vehicle with heavy chains attached.
2. If you are considering installing a 3M / Lexan window security film or laminated glass on the front glass doors and windows, we highly recommend calling our Affinity partner, Window Film Depot ([www.windowfilmdepot.com](http://www.windowfilmdepot.com)), to ensure it gets installed correctly. If this film is installed incorrectly, it may be breached with minimal effort. This vendor is highly recommended.
3. As your building may be accessed via cutting or smashing through an exterior wall, consider installing plywood interior barriers or laced metal fencing with shock sensors tied into your burglar alarm system for early alarming before someone actually gains entry.
4. You should have motion sensors and glass break sensors installed in all vulnerable or easily accessed areas. These should both be tested monthly to ensure good working condition and sensitivity.
5. A sound practice also incorporates secure gun storage after hours. We realize this may not be an easy task but investing over time in vandal-proof showcases and cable-lock systems for your long guns or moving them to a vandal proof "safe" area can prevent unnecessary losses.
6. Your front doors are vulnerable to smash and grab burglaries. We suggest installing crash-proof steel and concrete bollards or decorative landscape boulders in front of your doors to deter such an incident.
7. An upgraded system to protect your front area may include roll-down steel gates with reinforced iron rail guides.
8. If you sell gun safes, you may consider moving display (retail) gun safes to protect the interior of any wall easily accessible from the parking area to prevent easy smash and grab burglaries. The intention is to "slow them down" if they do get in and create a great visual deterrent to even attempting a burglary.
9. If pilfered, change your behavior for the next 30 days as we are seeing "repeat burglaries" soon following break-ins where criminals were successful. You may consider leaving



additional lights on at night (inside and out), moving gun safes to block doors or even parking a delivery vehicle in front of the main entry to communicate to the criminals that you are reacting to the recent incident. Try to leave the impression that someone may be inside after hours and keep the bad guys guessing.

10. Several client members have installed interior strobes, high-decibel horns/sirens and even high-intensity flashing light bars to impede interior movement of intruding vandals, all connected into the burglar alarm system.
11. Train the team! If you make the News, you are now a target for future burglaries as the criminal community will take note of the recent media reports. Your staff should be trained in assertive customer service and watching for unusual customers behaviors. Criminals will surely "case" your store by visiting and determining where to break in, how to access your firearms, etc. The bad guys (or girls) typically need to enter to see the layout before committing the burglary. Make note of any customers who avoid eye contact, avoid normal firearm-interest conversations, avoid the typical detailed conversations that you have with typical customers, etc. When such suspicious customers are encountered, take written notes that include vehicle descriptions and tag numbers when possible and report information timely to the police. Share this information with your staff daily.
12. Be sure to test your alarm and camera systems monthly to ensure all devices and components are working correctly and that ALL areas of your store are covered to identify vandals entering through your walls and roof/ceiling.
13. Conduct a "walk-around" perimeter check of your building weekly and look for any unusual pry marks, tire tracks, ladders or anything else that may be out of place, or used by vandals, and report suspicious activity to your local police.
14. Take note to protect, secure and alarm any secondary entry points into your facility including trash chutes, HVAC duct work and roof hatches / access doors.
15. You may consider parking a vehicle in front of your main doors to prevent future smash and grabs until you install bollards or boulders.
16. Lastly, we always recommend having reality-based discussions regularly with your supervisors and staff regarding what to do in the case of critical incidents such as burglary, robbery, safety when arriving / leaving and other danger situations.