



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOMEOWNER CONFRONTS BURGLARY SUSPECT

[Lancaster, Ohio, March 30, 2010] On March 29, 2010 at 11:08 a.m. the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office was notified of an early morning burglary in Bloom Township. A homeowner on Winchester Road reported he was in the basement of his home when he heard noise upstairs. He then went upstairs and discovered a young man in his living room taking his guns and a television. The suspect left the house at this time and the homeowner confronted the man in the driveway where a physical altercation occurred as the suspect was getting in his car to leave. The suspect was described as a white male, clean shaven, 5'9" to 5'10" tall, and approximately 250 pounds. He went westbound on Winchester Road in a small white car.

Deputies responded to the area to investigate, and discovered the suspect entered the home through a rear exterior door. Once inside the home the suspect entered several rooms taking several firearms and a small flat screen television, placing the items near the front door. The homeowner then startled the suspect and confronted him, at which time a struggle began over a shotgun the suspect was carrying. The suspect then ran to the driveway and left in a small white car. The homeowner received minor injuries to his shoulder as a result of the struggle with the gun.

"In the past, burglaries have occurred that had the potential for confrontations with homeowners, or were witnessed by a neighbor or a property owner encountering a person on their property when they arrived home," stated Sheriff Dave Phalen.

Detectives are continuing their investigation into this crime.

If you meet a burglar face to face in your home, follow these safety tips:

1. Remember most burglaries are not crimes of violence and the perpetrators are more interested in properties than causing harm.
2. Remain calm and do not attempt any violent confrontation.
3. Try leaving the home, if possible. If not, secure yourself in a room. Call 9-1-1 immediately.