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A Firearm is the Best Home Security

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Recently, a multitude of Brinks Home Security commercials has been appearing on TV. They are so unrealistic that they would be comical if their message wasn't so frightening and misguided.

What happens in most versions of the commercial is a woman is at home alone when she hears someone trying to break in. After a second the door flies open to reveal a burglar as the security alarm is triggered. The noise of the alarm is enough to send the robber running away from the home. The woman is left safe and soon receives a call from Brinks saying that they are sending help to the house right away.

The unfortunate truth about this system is that it is only effective if the invader decides to run off after hearing the alarm, or decides to wait 15 minutes for the cops to show up before causing any damage. Although it is true that alarm systems can prove to be a deterrent in home invasions, they don't protect you 100 percent of the time.

What if you or your family is in the percentage of invasions where the invader continues to enter your home? A lot of damage can be done in the time it takes for the police to make it to your house. In this case it would be irresponsible to rely on the police to protect you from harm.

The truth is the police do not have a legal responsibility to protect you. In a Washington D.C. Supreme Court case, *Warren v. District of Columbia*, it was revealed that three women were robbed, raped, beaten and forced to commit sexual acts on each other for 14 hours. The women had been calling the police repeatedly for a half-hour, but they never showed up. The women sued the police department, but the court ruled that the police do not have a responsibility to provide individual protection, and they were relieved of any wrongdoing.

In fact, the courts ruled that "...a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen..." This is a scary precedent that was set by the court. If the police don't have to protect us, then people need to protect themselves.

The best way to do this is with a firearm. Firearms are an even stronger deterrent than alarm systems since 100 percent of home invasions are stopped when the invader is shot. Can Brinks offer those kinds of numbers?

Recently, in the town of Cape Girardeau, Mo., Ronnie W. Preyer, a registered sex offender, broke into a woman's home and raped her. In a second incident, Preyer broke into the same woman's house in order to rape her again. This time he cut off the electricity to her home and she was not able to contact the police. Instead, she picked up a shotgun, shot the man, and was able to escape unharmed.

When the police aren't able to help sufficiently, people must take personal protection into their own hands.

Many of proponents of gun control bring up statistics of gun crime. Besides the fact that you are four times more likely to die in a car accident than by a gun, there is a strong correlation between gun control and gun crime that should be addressed. Areas of the country with the strongest gun control laws, such as New York City and Chicago, also have the highest crime rates. Most criminals obtain their guns illegally, so in areas where gun control is high, the criminals are still getting guns. The difference is that they know law-abiding citizens are unarmed. Criminals are much more likely to attack when they know you are unarmed and defenseless. When citizens are allowed to bear arms, criminals will not be as successful.

Brinks Home Security may be a good back up, but it would be foolish to rely on it to protect you from harm. Since the election, gun sales have gone up by 50 percent in Connecticut alone, a trend that is being echoed across the nation. Maybe people are beginning to realize that the best way to defend themselves and their rights is with a firearm.