

## Know the Risk

Are you tenting your home for termites soon? If so, you should be informed of important crime prevention measures to take during the fumigation process. Homes undergoing fumigation give thieves an opportunity to steal from unsuspecting homeowners. Despite the hazardous conditions inside homes during fumigation, criminals will wear gas masks and cut into the fumigation tent to gain entry. They then burglarize the home stealing valuables.

It is very difficult to fully prevent a home burglary during fumigation. The steps you take now will minimize damage to your home and property if you experience a burglary during fumigation. If you experience a home burglary during fumigation please report it to the Lakewood Sheriff Station by calling 562.623.3500.

## VISIT US OR CALL

### City of Lakewood RV Permits Information

562.866.9711 ext. 2140

[www.lakewoodcity.org/RVPermits](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/RVPermits)

### Lakewood Sheriff's Station Vacation Check

562.623.3500

[www.lakewoodcity.org/Vacation](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/Vacation)

### City of Lakewood Public Safety Department

562.866.9711 ext. 2114

[www.lakewoodcity.org/FumeBurg](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/FumeBurg)

### So Cal Gas

800.427.2200

<https://tinyurl.com/SoCalGasFumigationPrep>

# FUMIGATION BURGLARY PREVENTION



CITY OF LAKEWOOD

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Partners with Our Community

**Stay Informed.  
Be Aware.  
Stay Safe.**

## What is a Fumigation Burglary?



Fumigation burglaries are a type of crime of opportunity, where unsuspecting residents let their guard down and are taken advantage of by criminals. Criminals target homes that are being fumigated because doors and windows must be left open and unsupervised during the treatment process. This allows criminals the perfect opportunity to enter the home and steal valuables.

### Aren't fumigation gasses toxic?

Yes! However, criminals will wear a gas mask to enter the home.

### How do I prevent a fumigation burglary?

Unfortunately there is no way to guarantee your home will be safe from burglary while your home is being fumigated. There are plenty of great ways to deter criminal activity from your home by making your home appear uninviting to criminal activity. See the next column for full details!

## How to Prepare

### Request Vacation Checks by Sheriff's Deputies

The Lakewood Sheriff's Station offers free vacation checks while residents are away from home. Residents submit a vacation check request form to Lakewood Sheriff's Station, and deputies will check on the home while it is unoccupied.

### Remove Valuables from your Home

Make every effort to not have any valuables or precious keepsakes left in your home during the fumigation. Remember your home will be left open for two to three days without any of your usual home security measures in place. If you cannot remove valuables from the home, you are encouraged to hide them.

### Use Additional Video Surveillance and Lighting

Any video surveillance systems you have in place that are attached to your home will be underneath the tent during the fumigation. Consider temporarily placing additional security cameras around the perimeter of your home, so that activity around the exterior of your home will be captured. Any exterior lighting attached to your home will also be under the tent, so consider adding more exterior lighting as well. Security cameras and lighting are a great deterrent to criminal activity.

### Stay 'at home' in an RV

Be physically present for the duration of the fumigation by staying in an RV on the street or your driveway. Be sure to get a permit if you choose to park on the street!

## Fumigation Burglary Prevention Checklist



### **Interview multiple professional termite inspection and fumigation service companies**

- Speak to multiple pest control companies
- Select a reputable business you trust
- Ask about the company's burglary prevention

### **Request a vacation check from the Lakewood Sheriff's Station**

- Confirm the dates and times your home will be vacant for the fumigation process
- Complete a vacation check request form available on Lakewood Sheriff's Station website.
- Return the form to the Lakewood Station

### **Turn off the gas inside your home**

- Call So Cal Gas to make an appointment.

### **Talk to your trusted neighbors**

- Let neighbors know when you plan to leave and return
- Tell neighbors what usual activity to look out for while you are away
- Give neighbors your contact information

### **Remove valuables and keepsakes from your home or hide them in a safe location**

- Money and jewelry
- Computers, TVs and electronics
- Important documents
- Firearms and ammunition

### **Consider staying outside of your home in an RV**

- Obtain an RV parking permit by calling Lakewood City Hall at 562-866-9771, ext. 2140

### **Deter criminals from targeting your home**

- Use security warning signs on the tent and around your home
- Add exterior lighting and set it to remain on through the night
- Place additional security cameras around the perimeter of your home
- Request an RV parking permit from Lakewood if staying at your home on the street in an RV