

NIBRS Tip of the Month

Burglary: State versus FBI Definitions

Washington State Burglary Definition: When a person enters or remains unlawfully in or upon premises when he or she is not then licensed, invited, or otherwise privileged to so enter or remain; premises include any building, dwelling, structure used for commercial aquaculture, or any real property. (Chapter 9A.52 RCW)

FBI Burglary Definition: Unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft; *a structure has four walls, a ceiling, a floor, and a door* (e.g., apartment, barn, cabin, church, condominium, dwelling house, factory, garage, house trailer or houseboat used as a permanent dwelling, mill, office, outbuilding, public building, railroad car, room, school, stable, vessel or ship, warehouse). A structure is also any house trailer or other mobile unit permanently fixed as an office, residence, or storehouse.

- **Forced Entry:** The offender(s) use force of any degree or a mechanical contrivance of any kind (e.g., a passkey or skeleton key) to unlawfully enter a building or other structure.
- **Unforced Entry:** The offender(s) achieve unlawful entry without force through an unlocked door or window.

