

FEBRUARY 2021 OVERVIEW

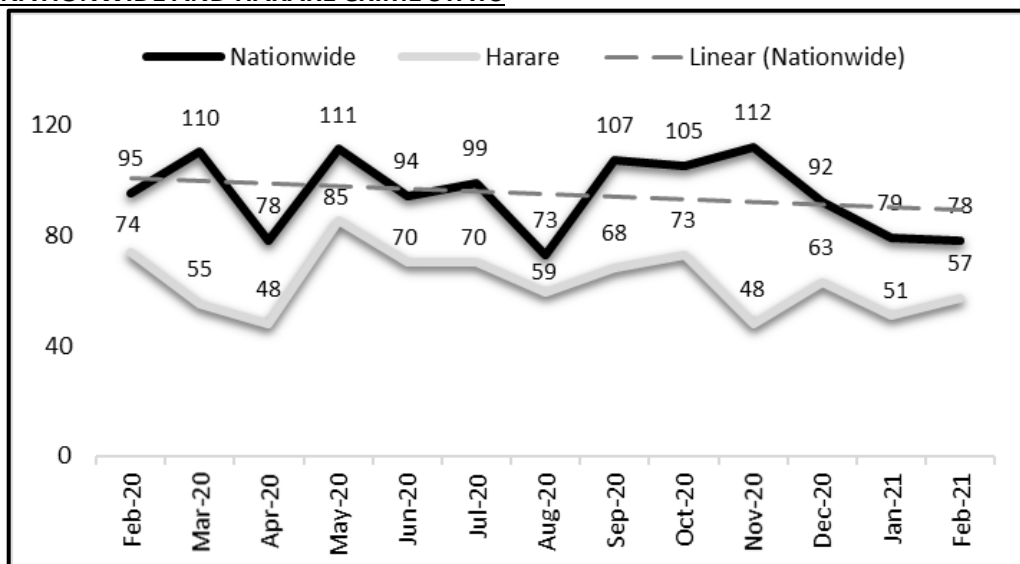
With three weeks of February reporting a serious armed robbery, it is evident that violent crime is currently a cause for concern. In response, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has also started an operation to minimise robberies, with a number of significant arrests reported in Harare and Bulawayo

Cell-phone towers and similarly unmanned remote posts were increasingly targeted in the western and southern areas of Harare namely, Dzivarasekwa, Glen View and Waterfalls in the past month.

A number of suspicious vehicles, most of them unregistered, were reported in Harare whilst another was reported in Bulawayo; a possible precursor of a crime increase as criminals often scout premises before targeting them.

The serious crime reported early March points to a spike in crime, after a steady decrease in the number of incidents over the last few months

NATIONWIDE AND HARARE CRIME STATS



HIGH-RISK AREAS

Armed Robbery

- Highlands, Harare
- Kamfinsa-Greendale, Harare

Break-in

- Greendale, Harare
- Borrowdale, Harare
- Highlands, Harare
- Dzivarasekwa, Harare.
- Waterfalls, Harare
- City Centre, Bulawayo

Theft

- City Centre, Bulawayo
- Workington, Harare
- Southerton, Harare
- City Centre, Mutare,
- Nyakamete, Mutare

**The above suburbs are listed in order of current vulnerability.*

TARGETS

Fuel and generator batteries have also been increasingly been targeted as base station incidents surged upwards in the past month.

MODUS OPERANDI

We are seeing a more organised approach. Scouting the area with visits to premises to ask for quotes, employees, view products and the like. During the visit a look at security, the coverage of alarms, the approach of staff and security- 2 people apprehended in Bulawayo today March) in the commercial sector thought to be involved in a recce of this nature

A report from a client in Glenlorne of people on site that, when challenged, stated they were part of a security response team – but were certainly not.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/VEHICLES

- **Avondale, St Annes Road (Harare)** – Blue Mercedes-Benz ML270 without registration plates. 2 male occupants with dogs fled the scene once approached
- **Borrowdale, Buckland Lane (Harare)** – A man was apprehended after he was found on site pretending to be a guard.
- **Greystone Park, Shottery Road (Harare)** – A white Toyota Wish with no registration plates. 5 individuals were seen fleeing a neighbouring and boarding the vehicle before speeding off.
- **Newlands, Maiden Drive (Harare)** – A white twin cab without registration plates was seen fleeing the avenue after shots were fired in the area.
- **Philadelphia, Lark Rise (Harare)** – A silver Honda Fit with three occupants was spotted in the area. The occupants fled the scene when patrolling guards signalled for them to stop.
- **Belmont, Birkenhead (Bulawayo)** – A white Mazda with no registration plates occupied by 3 individuals dropped off an individual who started taking pictures of vehicles parked outside. The individual threatened the guard when approached and left the scene.

OUTLOOK

Extended curfew, and a removal of travel restrictions will likely result in an increase in crime in the months ahead. The Easter and Defence forces weekends will likely see many away from home after the long lockdown, and we expect the number of break ins to rise

As we see more vehicles on the road we will see theft from motor vehicles rise

Robbery and attacks on cash has spiked in March, and we can expect an increased risk into April for businesses that receive and move cash. Serious attention must be paid to security in these areas – traditional deterrents are no longer sufficient.

For a walk through of your security at home or business, please do not hesitate to give Safeguard a call. Your safety is our priority.

Thank you for using Safeguard.

The Safeguard Team

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FEBRUARY 2021 INCIDENT SUMMARIES

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from Vehicle	Total
Bulawayo									
Belmont							1		1
City Centre - Bulawayo		1	2						3
Fairbridge						1			1
Magwegwe			1						1
Northend			1						1
Parklands			1						1
Steeldale							2		2
Suburbs			2						2
Thorngrove						1			1
Harare									
Ashdown Park			1						1
Athlone			1						1
Avenues			1						1
Ballantyne Park						1			1
Bluffhill								1	1
Borrowdale			1						1
Budiriro 2			1						1
Chisipite			1						1
City Centre	1		1						2
Colne Valley							1		1
Dzivarasekwa			3				1		4
Emerald Hill								1	1
Glen Norah B			1						1
Glen View			2						2
Graniteside							2		2
Greendale			1				1		2
Greystone Park							1		1
Hatfield	1					1			2
Highlands	1		2						3
Lochnivar			1						1
Mabelreign								1	1
Mandara	1								1
Mbare						1			1
Meyrick Park						1			1
Mount Pleasant							2		2
Msasa							3		3
Mukuvisi							1		1
New Ardbennie							1		1
Nkwisi			1						1

Suburb	Armed Robbery	Assault	Break-In	Fraud	Hijacking	Intruder	Theft	Theft from Vehicle	Total
Southerton							1		1
Manicaland									
City Centre							1		1
Nyakamete							1		1
Mashonaland East									
Goromonzi			1						1
Ruwa			1						1
Mashonaland West									
Kadoma							1		1
Norton	1								1
Masvingo									
City Centre							1		1
Rhodene							1		1
Midlands									
Kwekwe			1						1
Zvishavane		1							1

HARARE

2 February 2021, 04:02, Robbery, Residential Site, Arcturus Road, Greendale – Six men, armed with assorted weapons, attacked a woman and her children in their home. The tenants were badly beaten up and sustained lacerations to the head and a suspected broken arm. Some phones, an undisclosed amount of money and some watches were stolen. The tenants were rushed to the hospital for medical attention when Safeguard responded to assist. One of the robbers was identified as previously being on site as a tree cutter.

4 February 2021, 03:08, Robbery, Residential Site, Blakeway Drive, Belvedere – Armed robbery occurred in the early hours of the morning. Six suspects jumped over the durawall, one of them was armed with a pistol. The owner was held at gunpoint whilst the other suspects took various items.

16 February 2021, 20:30, Robbery, Industrial Site, Midlands Close, Waterfalls – Seven armed robbers entered the premises armed with a pistol and iron bars. The guard on site was searched at gunpoint and had his cell phone, panic button and radio taken. He was hit over the head with an iron bar. The intruders gained access through the toilet window and thoroughly searched the premises. The only thing that was taken was a cash box which the manager said was empty. The robbers used the radio to lead the reaction team to the wrong address. Waterfalls police attended the scene. The guard was sent to the clinic for medical attention.

16 February 2021, 01:26, Robbery, Residential Site, Huyton Road, Mandara – Three male intruders entered the premises armed with a wrench and rocks. They approached the verandah where the residents were sitting. They threatened to stone the residents if they were not given what they wanted. The house was ransacked. The female residents were threatened with rape and also received death threats. The robbers stole jewellery, cell phones and an undisclosed amount of US dollars before locking the residents in a room.

19 February 2021, 19:16, Robbery, Commercial Site, Mbuya Nehanda Street, City Centre - Four suspects, one of them a police officer, were shot dead whilst 2 were arrested after a shootout with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in the Harare CBD. The shootout ensued after the police responded to a tip-of that a robbery was in progress. The suspects who were armed with a 0.22mm magnum and a pistol were in the process of robbing a shop owner of USD10 000 when the police arrived. The money and firearms were retrieved by the police after the shootout.

25 February 2021, 03:30, Robbery, Commercial Site, Seke Road, Hatfield – Eleven suspects were arrested after they attempted to rob an individual on site. The suspects were armed with two rifles, iron bars, a sjambok and a catapult. Police responded to the scene after they were informed of the robbery in progress. By the time the police arrived, the victim had been assaulted. The victim was taken to a hospital for medical attention.

1 February 2021, 01:42, Break in, Base Station, Patrenda Way/ Glen View Way, Glen View – An alarm activated and a team was dispatched. The intruders entered through a previous opening which had not yet been repaired. The intruders cut and bent one palisade bar of the generator cage and one camera was covered with a cloth. Nothing was reported stolen.

2 February 2021, 04:42, Break in, Base Station, Tynwald Road, Nkwisi – An alarm activated and a reaction team was dispatched. Intruders bent the back palisade bar to gain entry into the booster and covered a camera facing the generator. The guard threw stones and shouted causing the intruders to flee. Nothing was reported stolen.

3 February 2021, 07:40, Break in, Base Station, Unnamed Street, Lochinvar – An alarm signal activated and a team was dispatched. Two palisade bars were broken to gain entry. A camera was covered with a cloth and the generator cage was tampered with. Southerton Police attended the scene.

4 February 2021, 04:15, Break in, Base Station, Takawira Avenue/ Makuchete Road, Dzivaresekwa – An alarm activated and a team was dispatched. The intruders cut one palisade bar to enter and then proceeded vandalise the generator cage and then damaged the generator fuel pipe. The covered the camera with a work suit jacket. The case was reported to Dzivaresekwa police station.

4 February 2021, 04:40, Break in, Commercial Site, Speke Avenue/ 1st Street, City Centre – An alarm activated and a team was dispatched. The shop windows were found broken. The intruder was arrested by the team further down the street. He was armed with an iron bar. The accused was taken to the Harare Central Police station.

7 February 2021, 02:00, Break in, Residential Site, Boardman Close, Greendale – The resident pressed his panic button after he heard gunshots next door. The team were dispatched and discovered that the next door neighbour fired the shots as three intruders had entered his house. The intruders stole an iPad, a phone and some money. They ran away when the gun was fired. The neighbour had already made a report to Rhodesville police station.

10 February 2021, 10:30, Break in, Base Station, Unnamed Street, Waterfalls – An alarm signal was received and a team was dispatched. Upon arrival they noticed a palisade bar had been broken. The generator door was wide open with some diesel spillages on the ground. The case was reported to Waterfalls police station.

11 February 2021, 01:55, Break in, Base Station, Glenview 6, Glenview – An alarm activated and a team was dispatched. The intruders gained access by cutting the razor wire on the eastern side of the property. Nothing appeared to be stolen.

12 February 2021, 22:33, Break in, Base Station, Ashdown Park, Harare Drive – An alarm signal was received and a team was dispatched. Upon arrival the team noticed two palisade bars were cut to gain entry. One camera was covered with a cloth. Diesel spillages was seen on the ground. However, the base station supervisor said the broken palisade bars were from a previous incident and were yet to be repaired. He suspected the theft was an inside job.

12 February 2021, 22:14, Break in, Base Station, 1st Street/ Tamuka Street, Dzivaresekwa – An alarm signal was received and a team was dispatched. A palisade bar was broken to gain entry. The camera facing the generator was stolen. Police attended the scene.

12 February 2021, 13:04, Break in, Residential Site, Harare Drive, Greendale – A phone call was made and a team was requested. The client said there were intruders on her property and they broke the window of her car but nothing was stolen. The case was reported to Rhodesville Police.

12 February 2021, 11:09, Break in, Residential Site, Ridgeway North, Highlands – A break in was reported after a bicycle was stolen from the premises.

13 February 2021, 01:13, Break in, Base Station, Eaglesvale, Willowvale – A signal was received and a team was dispatched. The team discovered intruders gained entry by cutting one palisade bar and went inside the booster, where they broke the ZESA box. Nothing reported stolen. The intruders ran away when they saw the approaching guards. The case was reported to Marimba Police.

17 February 2021, 08:51, Break in, Base Station, 1st Avenue/ Cheviot Avenue, Waterfalls – An alarm signal sounded and a team was dispatched. Upon arrival they noticed two broken palisade bars, one on the western side and one on the southern side. The intruders covered one camera with a cloth. The fuel pipe to the generator was tampered with. The case was reported to Waterfalls police station.

19 February 2021, 04:36, Break in, Base Station, Unnamed Street, Waterfalls – Upon arrival the team noticed two palisade bars were broken. All was okay and nothing was reported stolen. Waterfalls police attended.

19 February 2021, 22:10, Break in, Base Station, 1st Street/ Tamuka Street, Dzivaresekwa – Upon arrival the team met two external security guards. The intruders cut one palisade bar at the western side and also they had broken the generator cage bar. An alarm sensor was vandalised between two cameras. Nothing was reported stolen.

20 February 2021, 13:00, Break in, Base Station, Renwick Drive, Glen Norah – A video alarm went off and a team was dispatched. The team met with a supervisor who triggered the alarm as she was checking why the alarm hadn't gone off the night before when there was a break in. The intruders gained access by cutting a palisade bar on the western side. They cut one bar on the generator cage and broke the generator fuel pipe. Diesel was seen all over the ground. One camera that looked over the generator was missing.

20 February 2021, 13:22, Break in, Industrial Site, Kushanda Crescent, Budiriro – A phone call was made and a client reported a break in. Two intruders used a ladder to climb to the top of the roof and removed one iron sheet. They did not get inside. Nothing was reported stolen.

21 February 2021, 08:00, Break in, Commercial Site, Tarisa Road, Goromonzi – A break in was reported. A large amount of US dollars, a laptop and some phones were stolen. The property has no alarms or cameras but has guards. The guards were sent in for questioning.

22 February 2021, 03:40, Break in, Residential Site, Steppes Road, Chisipite – A panic signal was pressed and a team was dispatched. Intruders cut the fence of the back yard to gain entry and broke a bedroom window. They did not enter as the window had burglar bars. Highlands Police attended the scene.

22 February 2021, 02:14, Break in, Base Station, Tafara – A video alarm went off and a team was dispatched. The team reported that intruders cut two palisade bars to gain entry and then went onto cut one bar of the generator cage. Nothing was reported stolen. Mabvuku Police attended the scene.

25 February 2021, 03:36, Break in, Residential Site, Lichfield Road, Borrowdale – An alarm signal was received and a reaction team was dispatched. The resident informed the team that there were intruders. They noticed that the intruders cut the fence in the backyard to gain entry. They removed a window pane in the lounge to gain entry into the house. The intruders also entered into the domestic quarters. However, nothing was reported stolen.

27 February 2021, 03:02, Break in, Medical Centre, Fife Avenue, Avenues – A phone call was made reporting a break in. A team was dispatched and met with the caretaker of the property. He informed the team that four intruders broke the key to one of the gates and entered the yard. They proceeded to the back of the surgery and broke a window to gain access. However, they ran away when the caretaker approached. A report was made to the police.

1 February 2021, 10:00, Theft from a Vehicle, Residential Site, Una Place, Athlone – Two residents reported that their car was broken into and the battery was stolen. The vehicle was parked outside the garage but the alarm did not sound.

7 February 2021, 07:27, Theft from a Motor vehicle, Fuel Depot, Reform Way, Willowvale – Control room was called and the man said he had some parts stolen out of his car. A radiator, starter, alternator, battery, spare wheel, wheel spanner and jack were all stolen. The matter was reported to Glen Norah Police.

12 February 2021, 03:12, Attempted Theft from Vehicle, Residential Site, Harare Drive, Greendale – A break in was reported. The resident said thieves broke the window of his car but nothing was stolen. The case was reported to Rhodesville Police Station.

17 February 2021, 20:56, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Residential Site, Dorset Road, Emerald Hill – An unknown number of intruders jumped over the durawall and drained an undisclosed amount of fuel from three vehicles parked on site.

21 February 2021, 01:13, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Construction Site, Marwede Road, Bluff Hill – Two employees were caught stealing diesel from a bulldozer grader. The two suspects were taken to Dzivaresekwa Police Station.

24 February 2021, 12:58, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Residential Site, 46th Avenue, Mabelreign – A resident phoned in saying her tenant's car was broken into and that the battery had been stolen. A police report was made.

27 February 2021, 18:13, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Dartford Road, Willowvale – There was a report of two stolen axles and two stolen sets of springs from a parked ford stud breaker.

- 2 February 2021, 04:06, Theft, Industrial Site, Soutter Road, New Ardbennie** – A panic signal was received and a team was dispatched. The thieves stole some empty bags. The thieves fled the scene in a Honda fit. The external guards were not on site and the gate was wide open. An employee saw the whole incident happen and gave a report to the police.
- 10 February 2021, 17:47, Theft, Residential Site, Greendale Avenue, Greendale** – A night guard phoned control requesting assistance as thieves were stealing telephone cables outside the property. The reaction team was sent through to assist but the thieves had fled the scene.
- 17 February 2021, 08:47, Theft, Industrial Site, Rainham Road, Dzivaresekwa** – Three sets of solar batteries and a light were reported stolen on site.
- 18 February 2021, 16:29, Theft, Residential Site, Hillborough Close, Greystone Park** – A guard on site reported that an employee working on site had stolen two packs of electrical cables and fled the scene.
- 24 February 2021, 02:30, Theft, Industrial Site, Kelvin Road North, Graniteside** – Two intruders gained access through the back door as they appeared to have keys and stole two desktop computers and one CPU. No alarm sounded but the intruders were seen on CCTV. There was no sign of forced entry throughout the premises. They locked the door on their way out. Police arrived at the scene and concluded that it was an inside job as they were familiar with the premises.
- 24 February 2021, 16:32, Theft, Industrial Site, Unnamed Road, Mukuvisi** – A truck spring was reported missing. Upon inspection of CCTV footage, an employee was seen taking it and leaving with it on his bicycle. The matter was reported to Rhodesville police.
- 25 February 2021, 14:04, Theft, Commercial Site, Mukuvisi Road, Msasa** – A client reported 34 x 90kg empty bags and he was missing chemicals he used to spray weeds. The matter is still under investigation.
- 25 February 2021, 17:14, Theft, Industrial Site, Highfield Road, Southerton** – The client called in saying that 16 palletes of cereal went missing sometime between January and February.
- 26 February 2021, 04:10, Theft, Commercial Site, Whites Way, Msasa** – Two guards arrested a man who had stolen a bucket of crushed maize which was at the back of the property. His accomplice managed to escape.
- 28 February 2021, 06:09, Theft, Residential Site, Selous Road, Colne Valley** – 3 by 20 litres of paint were stolen off of the property. A guard arrested the suspect and the incident was reported to ZRP Highlands.
- 28 February 2021, 03:54, Theft, Residential Site, Sims Road, Mount Pleasant** – An alarm was activated and the client informed control room that he heard a loud noise which was followed by his light going out. Upon arrival the team discovered intruders had cut and stole Zesa cables from three houses which left the whole area in darkness. Mabelreign police and Zesa were informed.
- 3 February 2021, 22:30, Intruder, Industrial Site, Remembrance Drive, Mbare** – A female intruder jumped into the site stating she was under attack by street kids who were threatening her. She was detained whilst the client made sure nothing was stolen off of the property.
- 15 February 2021, 05:27, Intruder, Residential Site, Shottery Road, Greystone Park** – A guard raised alarm that there were intruders in the contract next door. On arrival of the team the intruders jumped out of the contract and were picked up by a white car with no number plates and fled the scene. The team spoke with the resident next door who said that nothing was stolen.
- 16 February 2021, 02:05, Intruder, Residential Site, Henderson Road, Hatfield** – An alarm sounded and a reaction team was sent. The resident reported hearing gunshots. An external guard was seen and he confirmed it was him who fired the shots in order to scare off an intruder.
- 17 February 2021, 04:57, Intruder, Residential Site, Brentford Road, Ballantyne Park** – A client called requesting a reaction team as there were intruders in the yard who were suspected to have entered the house. The team found no sign of forced entry.
- 18 February 2021, 18:18, Intruder, Industrial Site, Coventry Road, Workington** – Three suspects were taken to Mbare Police Station for trespassing. They had come in after hours claiming to do paper recycling.
- 13 February 2021, 16:15, Theft - Arrest by Safeguard, Industrial Site, Douglas Road, Workington** – An employee was arrested by a guard for attempting to steal company property. The accused wrote a statement.
- 25 February 2021, 20:20, Arrest by Safeguard, Commercial Site, Dagenham Road, Willowvale** – A guard apprehended a man breaking the durawall in order to have access into the premises. The suspect was taken to ZRP Southerton.

BULAWAYO

3 February 2021, 06:50, Assault, Commercial Site, Unnamed Road, Zvishavane – A guard was assaulted by unknown people after he had knocked off duty.

25 February 2021, 09:35, Assault, Commercial Site, Josiah Chinamano Street – A guard was assaulted by a group of unknown people as he was leaving his post.

3 February 2021, 20:04, Break in, Base Station, Coghlan Road, Parklands – An alarm activated and CCTV showed intruders inside the base station. Upon arrival the team found that the intruders had cut the palisade fencing and had tampered with the alarms radio system. ZRP were advised.

5 February 2021, 02:35, Break in, Residential Site, David Carnegie Road, Northend – An alarm triggered and a team was sent. The key holder informed the team that he heard breaking glass. The intruders had vandalised the electric motor for the gate, smashed a car window and also punctured two tyres but nothing was stolen.

8 February 2021, 07:00, Break in, Commercial Site, 4th Avenue & Robert Mugabe Way – Intruders dismantled the alarm system and stole an undisclosed amount of USD and ZWL and two golden watches. It is unknown when the incident occurred as the alarm didn't sound.

11 February 2021, 22:50, Break in, Base Station, Mangwegwe – An alarm activated and the CCTV showed two people inside. A team was dispatched. They gained entry through an old hole in the fence which had not been repaired. They then proceeded to the fuel tank where they cut the fuel pipe supplying the generator, 2x20l empty containers were found. A policeman from ZRP Magwegwe attended the scene.

16 February 2021, 14:05, Attempted Break in, Industrial Site, Park Road, Suburbs - A client phoned in saying there was an attempted break in, intruders broke the gate but did not gain entry.

20 February 2021, 00:32, Attempted Break in, Residential Site, Clark Road, Suburbs – An alarm activated and a reaction team was dispatched. Upon arrival they discovered three windows were smashed. However, no entry was gained into the premises.

11 February 2021, 00:46, Intruder, Commercial Site, Woodburn Road, Thorngrove – A radio call was received reporting an intruder was seen near the scrap yard. Some scrap metals were reported stolen.

21 February 2021, 10:21, Intruder, Commercial Site, Harare and Fairbridge Road, Fairbridge – An intruder was seen near the scrap yard. When he was pursued he managed to escape. It was discovered that the fence was tilted near the carpark. Indicating where the intruder gained access to the property.

8 February 2021, 17:43, Theft, Industrial Site, Bon Acco Road, Steeldale – Two generator batteries were reported missing on site.

8 February 2021, 14:37, Theft, Commercial Site, Steel Works Road, Steeldale – An employee is reported to have stolen an undisclosed amount of property on site.

MANICALAND

25 February 2021, 08:06, Theft, Industrial Site, Liverpool Road, Nyakamete – Five crates of alcoholic beverage were reported missing. CCTV footage was not working between midnight and 5am. It is believed that the CCTV was tampered with. However, there was no sign of forced entry.

27 February 2021, 08:29, Theft, Industrial Site, George Silundika Road, City Centre – Gumboots were reported missing on site, no forced entry reported.

MASHONALAND EAST

4 February 2021, 03:10, Break in, Residential Site, Chipukutu Park, Ruwa – An alarm activated and a team was dispatched. The intruders had tried to force open the kitchen door but ran away when the alarm sounded. The client refused police involvement.

MIDLANDS

1 February 2021, 03:06, Break in, Base Station, Unnamed Street, Kwekwe – There was an alarm activation and a team was dispatched. The team noted there has a break in. The gained entry into the booster to steal diesel. They found a steel bar and a hose pipe.

22 February 2021, 03:30, Theft, Industrial Site, Josiah Tongogara Street, Kadoma – An employee had his cell phone stolen by intruders on site. They broke a window in order to steal the phone. The case was reported to Kadoma central.