

January 8, 2015

**OPEN LETTER TO SOUTHWEST BORDER FEDERAL FIREARMS
LICENSEES**

Houston Field Division

**(Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson,
Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Polk, Waller Counties)**

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is committed to keeping industry members informed of important trends and regulatory developments. In furtherance of this commitment, we have prepared this open letter which briefly addresses burglaries at licensed premises in the greater Houston, Texas, area and offers basic, preventive, methods for combating thefts.

Within the last six months, a rash of burglaries at Federal firearms licensed premises in the Houston area and outlying counties has occurred. ATF and the firearms industry have a strong, definitive relationship as allies in reducing violent crime along the Southwest Border. We want to encourage you to continue to be our first line of defense in the ongoing battle against crime. We ask for your due diligence in continuing to implement and enforce effective strategies to ensure your licensed business premises are not only safe for your customers, but are secured properly during non-business hours. You are strongly encouraged to review ATF Publication 3317.2, Safety and Security Information for Federal Firearms Licensees. The booklet covers, in part, information for reducing vulnerability to thefts and losses and how to properly report a theft or loss. The publication can be obtained from the ATF website- www.atf.gov, by submitting an email request to the ATF Distribution Center at ATFDistributionCenterRequest@atf.gov, or by calling 703-870-7526 or 703-870-7528.

In the event you notice suspicious activity in proximity to your premises, please contact your local law enforcement agency and/or your local ATF Criminal Enforcement office. Questions regarding regulatory matters should be directed to your local ATF Industry Operations office.

Adhering to these simple methods will help to maximize ATF's impact and achieve our number one goal of protecting the public. Save Lives...Stop Thefts!

Tanarra James
Director of Industry Operations
Houston Field Division